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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
PUBLIC MEETING  
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY DR. DAVID MICHAELS

OCTOBER 30, 1999

COMFORT INN, PIKETON, OHIO

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## Morning Session

— — —

Mr. Blaine Beekman has graciously volunteered as the moderator. He will go over some of the rules.

First, the Honorable Senator Michael DeWine, Honorable Senator George Voinovich, our local Congressman, the Honorable Ted Strickland, and Mr. DeLeon.

CONGRESSMAN STRICKLAND: I would just like to  
I'm glad we are here, and I'm glad Dr.  
is here and our two senators are here.

You didn't come to hear me. I'm just going to

1 say I think this is an important meeting. I hope we get  
2 some good information. I look forward to working with  
3 our two senators and with all other persons who are  
4 responsible for bringing things to light and making the  
5 correct decisions to bring this issue to an honorable  
6 and just conclusion.

7 Thank you very much.

8 SENATOR DEWINE: Well, good morning. I am  
9 delighted we have such a great turnout this morning,  
and 10 I think, frankly, we expected that. We are here to  
hear 11 your comments, hear your concerns.

12 I have grave concerns about what has happened  
13 over the last several decades. I think when you read  
14 the reports that we have seen in the press over the  
last 15 few months, TV, Columbus Dispatch, local media,  
there's 16 a grave concern. A number of documents have  
been

17 exposed that I think no one had seen or very few people  
18 had seen which indicates clearly the Department of  
19 Energy knew a lot more than we knew they knew, and, 20  
frankly, I think the government is responsible for 21  
whatever happened here.

22 And one of the basic principles that I think we

23 start this discussion with is that whatever the federal

24 government did, collectively, quote, for the good of  
the 25 country, if anyone was injured as a result of that,

1 anyone died as a result of that, then the government  
has 2 an obligation to do whatever they can to compensate  
the 3 families and to compensate those who have been  
injured. 4 I think that's just a basic principle.

5 I think the second basic principle that the  
6 three of us in Congress certainly are committed to as  
7 well is to make sure that the appropriate money is here  
8 to clean up. That, again, is a federal obligation, and  
9 that needs to continue and needs to be adequately  
10 funded.

11 The third thing, it is very, very important  
12 that the assessment go on immediately, a complete  
13 assessment in regard to safety now.

14 So these are the basic three principles. The  
15 federal government has an obligation. There were  
16 contractors in here, but ultimately the responsibility,  
17 the buck stops with the federal government. It doesn't  
18 do any good to talk about there was this contractor or  
19 Goodyear or this or that. Ultimately the  
responsibility 20 is the federal government's  
responsibility.

21 I think what is most troubling, frankly -- and  
22 this is no reflection on the Department of Energy  
people 23 who are here today. They were not involved in

this -- 24 but I think it is most troubling when we look  
at the  
25 documents that have been unveiled so far, and there may

1 be many more that we will find in the future, that  
2 clearly indicated that the government knew about the  
3 risk and was not forthcoming in telling workers exactly  
4 about the nature of that risk.

5           One of the quotes in the Columbus Dispatch,  
and

6 I know you all have seen it, I found particularly  
7 troubling, and it is only one, there are many, many  
8 more, and this is a Goodyear Atomic memo obtained by  
the 9 Dispatch. Again, this is not the Department of  
Energy,

10 but ultimately I think the federal government is  
11 responsible.

12           And what it said, this is 1962, told managers  
13 not to reveal information about "housekeeping  
problems," 14 quote unquote. "The general philosophy  
should be passed 15 down to the foremen for use as a guide  
in handling

16 housekeeping problems involving contamination  
17 considerations," said the August 27, 1962 memo written  
18 by the plant superintendent. "We don't expect or  
desire 19 that the philosophy will be openly discussed  
with

20 bargaining-unit employees."

21                    So I think that pretty much summarizes some of  
22 the problems. So, again, I'm like Ted. I'm not here  
to 23 give a long speech. I'm here to listen, and we are  
here 24 to learn, and we appreciate DOE being here, and we  
25 intend to work with them as we move forward to try to

obtain the three objectives that I referenced.

2           Thank you very much.

3           SENATOR VOINOVICH: I have prepared a short  
4 statement. This is the first opportunity that I have 5  
had to be here in Piketon in terms of the Portsmouth  
6 Gaseous Diffusion Plant, although I have had an ongoing  
7 relationship with the plant since actually before I was  
8 sworn in as governor of the State of Ohio.

9           I'd like to thank Blaine Beekman and the  
10 chamber for agreeing to moderate this meeting. I'd  
like 11 to publicly thank your union president, Dan  
Minter, for 12 coming to Washington and presenting me with  
a plaque. 13 I'm sorry the time he came I was somewhere  
else, but you 14 are doing an outstanding job in  
representing your  
15 brothers and sisters. And I'd like to thank  
16 Dr. Michaels for coming today to hear the concerns of  
17 this audience.

18           I met with him in my own office, and I was  
19 impressed with his sincerity and professionalism.  
20 Dr. Michaels is new to the government system. I think  
21 that is good news, and with his medical background as  
an 22 epidemiologist, I believe it gives him a different  
23 perspective on how to approach things at the Department

24 of Energy.

25           Finally, I'd like to congratulate your

1 Congressman, and, obviously, from the wonderful response  
2 that you have had, you are well-loved by the people in  
3 the room and this area, his determination and  
4 persistence in looking into the problem here, and Mike  
5 DeWine for all of the hard work he has done over the  
6 years for Portsmouth and his efforts on behalf of the  
7 employees.

8           My history with Piketon, as I said goes back  
to  
9 my early days in government when I worked with then  
10 Congressman Bob McKeown to keep the plant open. In  
11 those days we were wondering whether the plant was  
going 12 to be open or not. We worked very hard to help  
13 facilitate the passage of Congressional legislation to  
14 privatize the enrichment operation and put it in the  
15 hands of a private contractor. If it was going to  
close 16 down, how were we going to keep it alive?

17           I still remember when USEC came in. Everyone  
18 was talking about that new process. Remember AVLIS?  
19 Well, I understand that process is no longer viable,  
but 20 USEC is working to develop technologies.

21           Since that time, I have been working with  
22 Senator DeWine and Congressman Strickland to keep the  
23 plant viable and safe jobs. As governor I met with 24  
Mr. Timbers of USEC in Columbus, and this year we had 25  
three meetings in Washington about the future of the

1 plant and our interest to prevent the loss of jobs  
here. 2

And I just want to say that I'm heartsick over  
3 the fact that all this time that we were trying to  
keep 4 the jobs here, we had no idea of the horrible  
risk of  
5 the people working in the facility.

6 I've come here not to make a long speech. I  
7 quickly found in the Senate so often that the senators  
8 speak too much, but I am here to listen to your  
9 perspective.

10 I'd also like to do one other thing that I  
11 think is important, and that is to commend the  
Columbus 12 Dispatch and their staff. That's not to take  
anything 13 away from your local media, but particularly  
a man by 14 the name of Jonathan Riskind for bringing  
this story to 15 the attention of all Ohioans and their  
continued  
16 first-rate coverage.

17 Jonathan has been able and the Dispatch to  
18 obtain information from Washington that's been of  
vital 19 importance to everyone interested in this  
20 issue, information that I believe might not have come  
to 21 light for years, even despite the efforts of your

22 congressional folks, and I think they provided a great  
23 community service.

24               In 1954 -- '54, that's the year I graduated  
25 from high school -- 45 years ago, just as the Cold  
War

1 was beginning, this plant here in Piketon opened its  
2 doors. Its main purpose was to enrich uranium for use  
3 in nuclear weapons and propulsion systems for naval  
4 vessels.

5               From the outset of the Cold War, our  
nation's

6 primary foreign policy was to insure that the then  
7 Soviet Union did not achieve military superiority,  
8 hence, nuclear superiority over the United States. I

am

9 putting this in a perspective to get an idea how  
10 important this facility was to the security, the  
11 national security, of the United States of America to  
12 maintain that edge.

13               An army of dedicated men and women, the  
14 civilian workforce helped keep military supplied and  
our 15 nation fully prepared to meet any potential  
threat,

16 dedicated men and woman, like those that worked in  
the 17 Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

18               And you were successful. Because of your  
19 efforts, the threat of global destruction was  
measurably 20 diminished with the collapse of the Soviet  
Union, and

21 you all right here in this room have a right to be  
proud 22 of your achievement.

23 But even as America thanks you for your hard  
24 work, your accomplishments have come at an  
unnecessarily 25 heavy price, including the loss of  
life, diminished

10 1 health and increased risk to families and loss  
of your 2 peace of mind worrying about your health  
concerns, and 3 that's because for decades some workers  
here have been 4 unwittingly exposed to dangerous  
levels of radioactive 5 material because proper safety  
practices, until  
6 recently, were never taken adequately to protect the  
7 workers.

8           This I think is reprehensible. There is simply  
9 no justification for the poor judgment and management  
10 that allowed Piketon's workers, family members and  
local 11 residents to be put at risk for such a long time,  
and  
12 you got legitimate questions, and the government has  
a 13 responsibility to answer the questions, like what  
was 14 handled and when, by whom, and what kind of  
exposure 15 risks were there to the entire facility and  
what were 16 the long-term health concerns for the  
people in this  
17 community, and last, but not least, the most  
important, 18 how are you going to be compensated? How  
are you going 19 to be compensated for all of those  
years?

20           It's up to the government to provide the  
clear 21 facts, no sugar-coating, no down-playing, no

glossing 22 over. And once those facts are known, it is  
necessary 23 for the federal government to provide  
whatever  
24 health-care assistance is needed for those workers  
who 25 have health-care problems.

11 1

You fought for America, and I think it's time  
2 for America to fight for you, and today's discussion,  
3 the imminent investigation are the first and foremost  
4 steps in getting to the bottom of things.

5           The second, as I say, is to make sure that  
the

6 health and safety of current workers is not  
jeopardized 7 by mistakes of past management.

8           I want you to know that I do have a deep  
9 interest in what happens at this facility, and I'm  
10 taking several actions that I think will help shine  
some 11 light on what has been going on here and what will  
bring 12 in the federal assistance.

13           Senator DeWine and I have sent letters to  
14 President Clinton and Energy Secretary Richardson  
urging 15 that the compensation program which has been  
proposed  
16 for workers at Paducah, Kentucky be extended to include  
17 workers here at the Portsmouth plant.

18           Second, as chairman of the subcommittee on  
19 Oversight of Government Management Restructuring of the  
20 District of Columbia and the Senate Governmental  
Affairs 21 Committee, that's my subcommittee, I have  
talked to my 22 subcommittee Chairman, Fred Thompson, and

Fred has

23 agreed to hold hearings in regard to this whole thing,

24 not only dealing with here, but Paducah, and what has

25 been going on all over this country in terms of the

12

1 management of the Department of Energy so that we  
don't 2 have repetition of this around the country. So  
we will 3 be getting in the Department of Energy  
people.

4 Last, but not least, Dan, we are going to  
put

5 what we call an e-mail address for your workers, and  
6 I'll leave that e-mail with you. That's Portsmouth,  
7 Voinovich.Senate.Gov, so that when things come up  
here, 8 you can e-mail it to us and we can keep track  
of it to 9 build a file for our committee hearings.

10 I don't doubt that there are Piketons in  
other

11 places in this country, simply because the government  
12 already admits there are thousands of sites that need  
to 13 be cleaned up, including a number of sites that  
are an 14 integral part of our Nation's Cold War effort.  
These

15 are sites that could be just like Piketon, where  
16 employees never knew whether or not they were facing  
any 17 potential health risk.

18 Again, we have written to the President. I  
19 think this is really important here. I know you are  
all 20 concerned about your particular situation. But,

as I

21 say, there are people all over the country that have  
22 worked in these kinds of facilities, and it seems to  
me 23 that this government of ours has a moral  
obligation to 24 go out and to flush out more of these  
sites all over the 25 United States of America and do it  
now and not wait for

13 1 the next five years or ten years where somebody  
2 discovers something that happened.

3 We have an obligation, and I think we, as  
the

4 federal government, have an obligation, and we have  
an 5 obligation to spend the money to do the research,  
and 6 also, most of all, to compensate those families  
that

7 have given so much that your brothers and sisters could  
8 work.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BEEKMAN: Thank you very much, gentleman

11 MR. GILLESPIE: Next I would like to introduce  
12 my boss, Leah Dever, the operations manager of the Oak  
13 Ridge Operations Office.

14 MS. DEVER: Thank you. I have been at the Oak  
15 Ridge Operations Office now for about three-and-a-half  
16 months, and I have spent some time at both Paducah and  
17 Portsmouth and, of course, Oak Ridge.

18 I have really not come to speak to you today.  
19 I've come to listen today. So with that, I would like  
20 to introduce Dr. David Michaels, who is the assistant  
21 secretary for environmental safety and health with the  
22 Department of Energy.

23

DR. MICHAELS: On behalf of Secretary of

Energy

24 Bill Richardson, I'd like to thank you all for coming,

25 and more importantly, I would like to thank you for all

1 the work you have done, as Senator Voinovich said, in  
2 helping the United States win the Cold War, because you  
3 are the people who put your lives on the line working  
in 4 very difficult conditions, building products for the  
5 nuclear weapons complex. We are very grateful to you.

6 We are indebted to you, and now is the time for us to  
7 repay that debt.

8           This is the beginning of that process. We are  
9 here to listen to you, and I'll be very brief. I only  
10 want to tell you what some of the activities are that  
11 are going to be happening over the next few months and  
12 then really open it up to you and hear your thoughts  
for 13 us, your stories.

14           As important as looking at the past and  
15 compensating workers we made sick, my absolute number  
16 one obligation is to insure that workers at the present  
17 are safely protected. And we have a very good  
18 investigative team. They're in Paducah right now  
19 looking at these issues in Paducah. They are now  
20 finishing up their investigation, and they will be here  
21 in late November to start their investigation here.

22           In Paducah we did a two-part investigation.  
23 The first part is on the present and looking back to  
24 1990, and we have already issued our report. We issued  
25 our report about two weeks ago.

1           And right now we are talking to workers about  
2 the exposures that occurred in the past before 1990.  
We 3 have interviewed somewhere between 150 to 200  
workers. 4 We are gathering data. We are releasing  
memos. Some of 5 the memos you read about in the press  
are ones that our 6 investigative team have found, and  
the moment we find  
7 anything, we release it immediately so everybody knows  
8 exactly what we are finding.

9           We will be coming here to Portsmouth starting  
10 in late November doing the same thing. We want to  
know 11 first, are we protecting our workers at the  
present;

12 and, secondly, have we exposed people in the past  
13 unknowingly or knowingly to dangerous materials, and on  
14 that basis, can we help anybody getting sick from that.

15           We have to move forward quickly, and we will  
do

16 that. Every bit of information we get, we will make  
17 public, and you will have that information. You will  
18 see a large team. We have 21 people right now in  
19 Paducah, and they will be coming here, and they're all  
20 very good.

21           I ask your cooperation. We will put ads in

the

22 local newspaper advertising our presence, giving you an  
23 800 number to call, and hope you call us and come out  
24 and speak with us confidentially about what you know.  
25           The second thing, though, and this is really

1 the more immediate reason why we are here, is on July 2  
15, 1999 President Clinton signed a memorandum calling 3  
for an investigation across the DOE complex, said, Did  
4 we make people sick? In making our nuclear weapons, did  
5 we expose people to materials that made them sick? And  
6 if so, are they getting adequate compensation now  
7 through the state workers' compensation programs?

8 If the answer to the first question is, yes,  
we  
9 made people sick, and the answer to the second question  
10 is, no, people aren't getting adequate compensation,  
11 then the federal government has an obligation to  
figure 12 out how to get the right compensation to you.

13 So I have come to Portsmouth, and I am very  
14 pleased and honored to be at the Portsmouth plant at  
15 Piketon, pleased and honored to be here with your  
entire 16 Congressional delegation, who have been  
relentless in

17 supporting this effort, in pushing me to make sure we  
18 get to the bottom of issues about exposure and making  
19 sure they get the best compensation program possible,  
20 and I think we should thank them again for that work.

21 I have come here on behalf of Secretary of  
22 Energy Bill Richardson to hear your stories. We want  
to 23 be able to know, Did we make you sick? And if, so  
are 24 you getting workers' compensation? And if you

are not, 25 we will work with you and work with your  
Congressional

17 1 delegation to find the right solution to make  
sure you 2 are adequately compensated for the important  
work you 3 have done.

4 I greatly appreciate your time and your  
5 patience. Thank you so much. I think we have a  
number 6 of experts here in different areas who we will  
call on 7 the various points to help respond to your  
questions,  
8 but this is your session, and we need to hear from you,  
9 so thank you.

10 MR. BEEKMAN: Basically I wanted to lay down  
11 the ground rules so we can try to get the absolute  
12 maximum benefit out of this historic moment when you  
are 13 be able to give individual testimony to the panel  
that 14 includes both your United States senators, your  
15 Congressman and Dr. Michaels.

16 Basically this panel is here to listen to you  
17 this morning. They want to hear your specific  
18 experiences, and I know that you have them to give.  
19 They want to invite the relevant testimony, and  
because 20 we have something like 50 people who really  
would like 21 the opportunity to talk, we would like for  
you to limit 22 the testimony. We want to limit it to  
five minutes.  
23 Some of you will be brief. We ask you to try to keep

it 24 within the five minutes. We would like for  
everybody to 25 have a chance to speak this morning.

1           This panel may choose to ask individual  
2   questions of you during your presentation, but there  
3   isn't going to be time to have a full  
4   question-and-answer session at the end of this because  
5   it's simply going to run past the allotted time.  
While 6   we appreciate this panel coming, they are  
somewhat  
7   limited in their time.

8           Everyone will get a chance to get their case  
9   into the record. The reason I bring that up it may be  
10   that we won't get to everybody, and if so, the staff  
is 11   going to follow up with everybody who wants to add  
12   something to this report so they will get the chance  
to 13   do so.

14           For those of you who listen and say, "I  
should  
15   have testified here, but I don't want to talk in front  
16   of all these people," there is an 800 number which I  
17   will give you so you can give that testimony, because  
18   the intent here is that anybody in this room who wants  
19   to give relevant testimony about their experiences,  
they 20   want to hear it. That's what the job of these  
people  
21   are.

22           Basically this is a listening session for

these

23 folks, so we will try to limit it, if at all possible,  
24 to five minutes. Some people will run over. That  
may 25 happen. We will prioritize a little bit. There  
are

19 1 some people who need to give early testimony.  
This is 2 going to be a long meeting. Because of some  
physical 3 problems, they need to testify early, so  
there will be 4 some of those.

5 The first speaker who will be coming up is -

-

6 MS. COLLEY: Before we start, I think there is  
7 something we need to say. We gave all the credit to  
the 8 union, but we have people who have aired their  
dirty

9 laundry for 14 years in the newspaper that didn't get  
10 credit. One is Susie Thompson, whose husband died of  
a 11 brain tumor. One is Mike Tulluh, and one is myself.

12 We have been on the front line of the  
Columbus

13 Dispatch, and another reporter is Mike Lafferty, who  
14 Nancy Hollister said back in 1992 at a public meeting  
15 here, we are going to go after Mike Lafferty because he  
16 is printing true stories about Piketon. So I think you  
17 need to tell these people you appreciate what they did  
18 also.

19 MR. BEEKMAN: Robert Elkins, please come  
20 forward.

21 MR. ELKINS: I am Robert Elkins. I have  
worked

22 in the plant. I hired in the plant after August of  
23 1954, and I worked for Goodyear Atomic, and the main  
24 concern at the time was production. That was the  
thing 25 they wanted. It didn't matter how you got it.  
As long

20 1 you got the production, that was it.

2 And at first they told us you could eat  
this

3 stuff. It wouldn't hurt you. I seen in Paducah  
they 4 told them the same thing.

5 In my case I worked in the nuclear reactor  
6 area, recovery, and I worked back there for five years,  
7 and in that five years in 1965, they started in vivo  
8 down in Oak Ridge, and in Oak Ridge Dr. Scott would take  
9 the in vivo, and I guess he was in charge of the count  
10 down there trying to explain to us what was going on.

11 Then they come back here, and they have a  
12 meeting of the personnel back here, included the health  
13 physicist and the hospital administrator, Dr, Lyons,  
and 14 the health physicist. They would have a meeting  
and try 15 to explain to them. But they explained it the  
way they 16 wanted to explain it. They told you it  
wouldn't bother 17 you, it would all go away.

18 There are two types of uranium. There's  
19 one is nonsoluble. One is soluble. The soluble is  
20 the gases, the one they make the weapons and everything  
21 out of.

22 The nonsoluble uranium, if you ingest that in  
23 the body, it stays in the body. You don't get rid of  
24 it. That's what I ended up with, the nonsoluble

uranium 25 in my body, and they keep a time limit for each person,

1 varies by month, 30 days, 60 days. They finally put on  
2 a year half-life.

3 After that year I came down to approximately  
4 100 count, and I stayed there, and they couldn't figure  
5 out why I stayed there, but I had that 34 years, and  
6 I've carried it for 34 years. And we filed  
occupational 7 disability on the thing and filed  
something right after 8 it happened, the union did. We  
won the case in the  
9 State of Ohio, occupational disability.

10 But somehow or other Goodyear talked them into  
11 saying that ten years nothing would happen, so these  
12 people, they accepted that and withdraw, and we got no  
13 compensation whatsoever.

14 And then in ten years, they went back up  
there

15 and somehow they told the commission that nothing  
16 happened to them because we didn't have no outward 17  
signs. It is all inward on us. It eats, it does  
18 something to the cells of the body, and they never did  
19 tell us what happened, and they wouldn't send us  
nowhere 20 to find out what happened.

21 So I still, that's been 34 years now, and I am  
22 still carrying it. It's been -- I had a nervous

23 breakdown in '76 because I worried whether I brought  
24 that home to my wife or not or my children, and that's  
25 been a big worry of mine over the years, and I still

1 have it. I still worry about it, and there's just  
2 nothing you can do about it but know you got it.

3 And they didn't worry. Once you retired out  
4 here, you're a forgotten person because they don't  
bring

5 you back for any physical. They don't bother with the  
6 in vivo counts to see if you still have it or not.  
7 That's it. What happens, you leave, you're out on your  
8 own. That's it.

9 So there you go for years and years, 34  
years,

10 and I have been working, and I don't -- I'm here at  
this 11 meeting because Jon Riskind asked me to give him  
12 information to write that first article he wrote, and  
13 that's what started up here, I guess what started this  
14 up here. I didn't want to do it because I'm not a  
very 15 -- I don't have a very good personality as far as  
16 speaking, but still, I have done it because I wanted  
to 17 help the people out here that's working here now  
not to 18 have what I got and have to live with it all  
their life. 19

MR. BEEKMAN: The next speaker is Sam Ray.

20 MR. RAY: Well, I'd just like to say that  
when

21 I was young and immortal, I remember older people  
22 telling me, when you get older, your battery will run  
23 down. Well, now, you realize if I talk too much on  
this 24 thing, my battery runs down.  
25 I would just add, to give a little bit of my

1 history, I worked 41 years, and then I retired in '95.  
2 It was my choice to retire, but circumstances helped  
me 3 along, but I was probably about ready.

4 But, anyway, probably most people that you  
see

5 using this type of apparatus, you will see it linked  
to 6 smoking. It's a different type of cancer. I have  
a  
7 rare type of cancer. I never smoked. Mine was a bone  
8 cancer. It's called chondrosarcoma, and it's very  
9 difficult to get information on. You just have to keep  
10 digging and digging.

11 Well, I finally found out what the scientific  
12 immunity thing is called, this type of cancer. There  
13 were two things that they came up with. One was a  
14 disease called Paget's disease, which I didn't have  
15 that, but the other one was radiation, which I  
16 definitely had.

17 But I really don't have anything in the form  
of  
18 a question. I would just like to make a statement.  
I'm 19 glad that you are trying to get Piketon included  
in with 20 Paducah. The problem I might have is there  
was

21 something mentioned about concern of a certain amount  
of 22 cash, cash settlements, and even though I'm not  
saying 23 it wouldn't be good, it probably would be good  
and  
24 appropriate for certain people, but that doesn't  
solve 25 the real problem.

think Bob brought it up on retirees. Once

2 you leave, it's almost like a forgotten generation.

I 3 feel the retirees should have lifetime honoring; in

4 other words, we should be entitled to yearly routine  
5 examination.

6 Now, we do have this right now under a one-  
time

7 deal. It's a grant. Ironically, it's a DOE grant  
8 administered by the International Union where retirees  
9 and former workers can get a free medical examination.  
10 But what we need, we need this on a yearly basis.

11 And also I would like to see us come under  
12 federal compensation, federal workers' compensation.  
We 13 have had too many problems on the state level. I  
think 14 we should be entitled to free medical insurance.

I

15 think that we have paid the price for that.

16 I think that in the present workers, they're  
in

17 a constant battle at negotiations' time trying to  
retain 18 what they've got, and they may be looking at  
that again 19 shortly.

20 What I'm saying is we shouldn't have to fight

21 for this. I think we are entitled to this. Now when  
22 you retire prior to age 65, your insurance premium  
23 automatically goes up. That's the way the system is  
set 24 up, and then when you reach age 65, it goes up even  
25 more.

1           And I know I have all the confidence in the  
2 world you people are going to be working on the drug  
3 prescription problem we have in this country. I'm just  
4 throwing that in there.

5           But basically, those are my concerns, and,  
6 like I say, I feel like we are entitled to it.

7           Thank you very much.

8           MR. BEEKMAN: The next testimony will come  
from

9 Anita George.

10          MS. GEORGE: I would like to bring up a  
serious

11 problem involving the workers at our facility that  
12 involves reproductive problems, such as miscarriages,  
13 possible birth defects, infertility and also  
14 hysterectomies.

15          All of these I know about because I have been  
16 at the plant site here 23 years in March. I work in  
17 chemical operations, which is decontamination. I know  
18 quite a few women on plant site, and to my knowledge  
19 right now, I only know of one woman that works in my  
20 department that has not had a hysterectomy and other  
21 reproductive problems.

22          In 1980 myself and -- I will tell a little  
23 incident. Myself and two others female workers were

24 assigned to do a routine decontamination job in one of  
25 the process buildings, and we went there to assess the

1 job, see what equipment we needed, and according to the  
2 work permits, everything was in right order to go and  
3 perform the job.

4           Fifteen minutes on the job without any  
5 protective personal protection, because we were told  
it 6 was not necessary at that time, we were informed by  
an 7 operator to leave the area because there was a  
problem 8 with the system, possible outgassing above  
atmosphere, 9 and we may have been exposed.

10           We were told by the foreman in charge that  
she  
11 had made a mistake. She hadn't checked this system  
12 before she sent us after she filled out the work  
13 permit.

14           We did the routine procedures, reported to  
the  
15 hospital because we were concerned, and we were told  
not 16 to leave urinary samples, wait four hours because  
of the 17 half-life, it won't show up. We were not placed  
on  
18 restrictions. We were not monitored for contamination.  
19 We were placed on another job decontaminating in  
another 20 process building.

21           Four hours later we went back to the hospital.

22 The personnel that should have monitored us and the  
23 system couldn't even wear a respirator to do her job,  
24 and we were informed by supervision to maybe consider  
25 carrying this case on. We were really approached to

1 stop it and keep it hushed. We did not.

2 In the next four days we were placed on and  
off

3 of restrictions without our sample reports being  
4 returned to us. We didn't know what our readings or  
our 5 counts were. One of the operators became ill. She  
had 6 excessive bleeding. I won't go into all the  
details,

7 and she went to the hospital numerous times on plant  
8 site, and they just told her to, you know, well, if you  
9 have any problems, you need to just lie down and rest.

10 She went to her family doctor. She was off  
11 work. She was told her white blood cell counts were  
12 over past, you know, off scale. She had an acute  
kidney 13 infection.

14 During that year she had a major  
hysterectomy.

15 During that time, myself and the other female operator  
16 were ill. We were told basically the same things.

17 We filed a workers' compensation claim on  
this,

18 and in June of 1981 it was denied. The first operator  
19 was having, I believe, her hysterectomy at that time.

20 The second operator the next year in '82 had hers

21 performed. Mine was performed almost to the date  
three 22 years later to the incident in 1983.

23 Not being allowed to have these compensation  
24 claims is a concern of ours. We're looking at our  
25 children working at this plant site. We're looking at

1 those who are blessed to have children in the future,  
2 and they're going to be faced with these concerns.

3 Dr. Michaels, Senators, Congressman, I  
believe

4 this is a problem, and it's widespread at this plant  
5 site. Not just with the women, men have reproductive  
6 problems as well. It's not talked about. These things  
7 are just not talked about.

8 I implore this committee to investigate these  
9 problems and find out if these problems are not only  
10 with uranium contamination but asbestos. We have been  
11 exposed. We were not properly trained back in the  
late 12 '70s and 80s on how to dispose of it. Chemicals  
that we 13 use to decontaminate, acids, cleaning  
solutions, they're 14 important because we're just told  
"get it done, no  
15 matter what. If you can't have this chemical to  
16 decontaminate, use this."

17 When I hired in in 1977, I was told the same  
18 thing. It doesn't hurt you. You can eat off of  
these 19 flanges and things that you're buffing,  
airborne  
20 contamination. I have seen pocket knives used to  
scrape 21 things off and they just put it away because

we're told 22 it doesn't hurt you.

23 I would like this committee to please

24 investigate this because our future is at stake. Our

25 lives, our families, this community, the environment,

1 and because reproductive problems I know, because this  
2 is our generation, our children, and we have to face  
3 this every day.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BEEKMAN: Larry Smith is the next  
6 presenter.

7 MR. SMITH: My name is Larry Smith. I am a  
8 Division 1 committee person for the union, and there is  
9 just about all the problems we seem to have at the  
plant  
10 site at this time and in the past.

11 A lot of process buildings when we go into  
work

12 on a job, we bring an electrician. We got no work  
13 permit. We don't know what's there other than what  
they 14 tell us. Several times when we go to work on a  
job,

15 when we come out of that job and monitor out, we're  
16 contaminated.

17 Now, when we monitor out, we just monitor for  
18 uranium. We don't know what else was there. We just  
19 feel -- this is the maintenance organization as well  
as 20 everybody at the plant -- that whenever we're  
21 contaminated, we should be informed and should have

been 22 informed and protected from all the contamination,  
not 23 just uranium and all that, but everything, whatever  
is 24 there.

25 Contamination can spread, can be anywhere, and

1 if we're not monitoring for it, we don't know what we're  
2 being exposed to.

3           So we just feel that this committee should run  
4 a real hard investigation to see what all contamination  
5 is at the plant, see what we have been exposed to in  
the 6 past, and compensate our previous workforce as well  
as  
7 the workforce that is there.

8           And I agree with Sam Ray, I think we deserve  
9 lifetime medical insurance, and us at the plant do have  
10 a yearly physical, but once you retire, they don't. I  
11 think they deserve a yearly physical and lifetime  
12 medical.

13           Thank you.

14           MR. BEEKMAN: Carl Mullins.

15           MS. CISCO: Jeanne Cisco to read for Carl  
16 Mullins. He's right outside the door and can't  
breathe. 17

My

name is Carl Mullins. I worked at the  
18 Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant for 24 years. I  
19 started out in 1976 as a janitor, became a laborer,  
then 20 worked in the laundry and converter shop as a  
chemical 21 operator.

22           These jobs took me all over the facility, so I  
23 was exposed to just about every contaminate on the

plant 24 site. When I started out, there was no  
contamination  
25 control program. In the laundry you didn't know  
where

31 1 the clothes you washed came from or how much  
radiation 2 they might contain or any other  
contaminates, such as 3 asbestos.

4 In 1985 I was a janitor, and the custodian  
5 supervisor wanted a contamination control boundary  
6 cleaned up because a tour was coming through. I  
said 7 that you couldn't do it because of the  
contamination 8 boundary.

9 When I worked in the converter shop in the  
X705  
10 and 700, there was no hand monitors in the building  
and 11 no monitoring devices at all. There were picnic  
tables 12 in the high bay where everyone ate lunch. They  
had to 13 wipe off tables because the arcked air left  
residue from 14 the converters on the tables. We didn't  
know what the 15 dust contained, and we weren't told the  
white picnic

16 tables would turn gray from the dust. The area also  
17 contained a microwave, coffee pot and vending  
machines, 18 so whatever was there got the contamination.

19 In January 1995 a valve burnt out in the  
20 fluorine system, and I got asbestos and fluorine. My  
21 joints ballooned out and swelled up. I filed a  
workers' 22 comp claim, but Lockheed Martin fought it,  
and I lost.

23                    One month later a valve burnt out in the HF  
24 system, burnt my lungs and destroyed my sense of  
smell. 25 It was so painful that if I could have coughed  
up my

1 lungs, I would feel better.

2 I was put in an LM ambulance and taken to  
Pike

3 County Hospital. After this I heard the plant manager  
4 say to gather the data on the procedures to find out  
if 5 there was something I might have done wrong, some  
6 procedure I had violated so he could fire me.

7 I again filed a workers' compensation claim,  
8 and this time I won. But what did I win? My lungs are  
9 shot. My life is pretty limited because of it.

10 Dr. Michaels, I feel that the contractor and  
11 government put me in harm's way, probably shortened my  
12 life from acute exposures and did little to protect me  
13 from radiation and asbestos hazards, which were  
14 everywhere for most of my working life.

15 It may be too late for me, but I hope you can  
16 help improve working conditions and put in place a  
17 compensation system that doesn't put the burden of  
proof 18 on the employee.

19 MR. BEEKMAN: Susan Thompson.

20 MS. THOMPSON: My name is Susan Thompson. My  
21 husband was Owen Thompson, a former chemical operator  
at 22 the Piketon uranium plant. Owen passed away April  
21, 23 1998 at the age of 46 after battling a rare brain

cancer 24 for 12-1/2 years.

25 If this meeting had taken place a year ago, I

1 wouldn't be here. I had a close call with breast cancer  
2 six months after Owen's death. I was diagnosed with a  
3 precancerous condition that needs to be monitored.

4           Do I have a fear of contracting cancer? Yes,  
I  
5 do, even more so since the recent plutonium  
confirmation 6 by DOE. I will most likely never know for  
sure if

7 contamination was unintentionally brought into my home.  
8 My biggest concern is the health of my three children,  
9 who are innocent victims.

10           Back in late 1976 to 1978 Owen was working in  
11 the part of plant called E area or oxide conversion. I  
12 knew he became contaminated numerous times while  
working 13 there. I assumed he was dealing with uranium.  
It

14 wasn't until his brain tumor was diagnosed in 1986 that  
15 he told me he handled plutonium, which wasn't supposed  
16 to be part of the job.

17           At what point he became aware, I don't know.  
18 Owen had a total of nine in vivos when he worked for  
19 Goodyear. Five of those were the time he worked in the  
20 oxide conversion. This is not a coincidence.  
Neptunium 21 as well as other toxic substances

consistently showed up 22 in his system. They never  
tested for plutonium.

23               Goodyear knew exactly what they were exposing  
24 Owen and other workers to. Their secret, experimental,  
25 privately-owned oxide conversion was their big

1 money-maker. It didn't matter how many lives they  
2 destroyed in the process. They have gotten away with  
3 murder, and they hid behind our government to do it.

4           When Owen was still working in oxide  
5 conversion, Goodyear shut it down. He became nervous  
6 about the contamination and went to a lower-paying job.  
7 After about a year, he went back to chemical  
8 operations. He was still being exposed, so he thought  
9 he may as well make more money.

10           The only reason Owen worked in oxide  
conversion

11 was because he was low in seniority. Some employees  
12 were lucky enough not to be in there. Others were  
dying 13 to get out.

14           After four years and a second brain surgery, I  
15 convinced Owen to go public about his accusations about  
16 the plant, which included plutonium. Back in 1990 and  
17 1991 the public seemed unconcerned about what took  
place 18 there. Coworkers from the plant stopped calling  
or

19 visiting. I guess they were afraid of repercussions  
20 from supervision.

21           Owen's workers' compensation claims were still  
22 being denied. Matters only got worse when Owen was

23 forced to go to Martin Marietta and workers'

24 compensation doctors in Ohio and West Virginia.

25 One doctor, a plastic surgeon, wondered why we

1 were sent there. Another doctor sent us bills when he  
2 worked for Martin Marietta. The biggest shock was when  
3 the doctor who never even met Owen said he didn't  
4 receive enough radiation. Later we found out this same  
5 doctor had performed radiation experiments on humans in  
6 the past.

7           We had several different attorneys working for  
8 us. They eventually gave up. Who could blame them?  
9 Martin Marietta was using our own tax dollars to fight  
10 us.

11           When Owen passed away, I thought about an  
12 autopsy, but couldn't deal with it. I was in shock and  
13 totally worn out from caring for him 24 hours a day  
when 14 he was terminally ill. Besides, who could I trust  
in  
15 the United States that wouldn't steal body parts?

16           If I have to prove that plutonium was and  
still

17 is in his body, I will have him exhumed and his remains  
18 sent to Canada at my own expense. No amount of money  
19 could have cured Owen's cancer, but if the plant had  
20 paid him, our quality of life during his last 13 years  
21 would have been much better.

22           Even though Owen is no longer here, he should

23 not be forgotten. My children lost a father, and I  
lost 24 a husband. He did the job Goodyear told him to  
do.  
25 They didn't tell him cancer was part of his occupation.

1                Shortly after Owen became ill and had his  
first

2    brain surgery, he was fearful of the plant because he  
3    knew a lot of things that went on there.    He gave me a  
4    paper he had written and told me, "Hold on to this  
5    paper, Susie, in case I don't make it."    He always was  
6    concerned about E area, he called it, oxide conversion.  
7    He said, "Never forget E area."

8                This is in his own handwriting, and I could  
9    have typed it up, but I thought it would be better that  
10   you read his own writing.

11               "Truth, E area exposure, there were lots of  
12   accidents, cold traps, slow tanks.    We had a pipe  
13   rupture while we were illegally running 97 percent  
assay 14   uranium, small amounts of plutonium, transuranics  
and

15   other isotopes.    This was an experimental secret.    ERTA  
16   was calling the shots then.

17               "Shortly after DOE took over, another accident  
18   with an operator, who I will not name, turned on the  
19   fire burning tower when the ash pot was not hooked up  
to 20   it, and an explosion of radioactive smoke, fire and  
dust 21   melted a Plexiglas box covering it.

22               "We at times had to enter that plexiglass box

23 to clean inside so we could see better. We had to  
crawl 24 around ash pots. That's where the by-products  
fell  
25 into. Radioactive trash or waste, they've got a three

1 billion or million life span, I think, most hazardous.

2           "Once while I was inside the box, my air hose  
3 to my head gear or hood came uncoupled. I was tangled  
4 up with hoses. It took Ken Stevens approximately three  
5 to five minutes to crawl out ahead of me to get to where  
6 my hose was broken. I had to breathe, so I lifted my  
7 hood three times. I had to.

8           "While working there the hair on my chest got  
9 so radioactively contaminated, I spent three to four  
10 days in the plant hospital showers scrubbing with  
boric 11 acid and soap trying to bring down my geiger  
counter

12 readings. It was in the thousands. Plant limit is  
13 100.

14           "Once they sent me home on a Friday, said  
if I

15 didn't scrub all weekend, they would to shave the  
top of 16 my head, the hair off my chest. The story  
goes I went 17 home and did nothing but have a regular  
weekend, came

18 back Monday, absolutely no radioactive count on me  
at

19 all. They did an in vivo test, said I was in good  
20 shape.

21                    "Goodyear had an inspector from, I believe,  
a  
22 plutonium plant, I think maybe from Nevada or Utah,  
came 23 to the area to inspect the place. This was  
after two  
24 years of my working in there. They wanted to be  
25 certified to run it.

38 1

"He immediately told them, quote, everything  
2 you got here is totally outrageous. If I had my  
way, 3 I'd lock this place up forever and bury it in  
lead.

4 "Result, he left, doors were locked. They  
put

5 lead shots and sacks on the roof and now have the  
walls 6 leaded up. Cold traps still have plutonium  
residue.

7 The crawl box and feeder has dust. The tower is still  
8 there, and very highly contaminated. I don't know what  
9 they did with the ash pots or the powder ash or the  
cans  
10 we sucked them into. He also told them that everything  
11 we did was to be done with mechanical fingers. They  
had 12 us crawling around inside it."

13 Thank you.

14 MR. BEEKMAN: Jeff Walburn.

15 MR. WALBURN: My name is Jeff Walburn,  
security

16 guard at the plant. I'm trying to have humor, I think  
17 sometimes is a good thing. It's said that we are  
18 fiercely loyal, and I believe that some people thought

19 that meant ignorant and poor, and we have been poor,  
but 20 we are not ignorant.

21 I have been at the plant for 23 years. During  
22 that time I was a politician myself. I was a  
councilman 23 in the City of Portsmouth for eight years,  
vice mayor  
24 for two years. I'm familiar with being fiercely loyal  
25 to my constituents.

1           I got hurt on 7-26-94 in an accident that  
never

2   was at the plant. My coworker and I, Paul Walton, who  
3   now is only a statistical retiree but in actuality a  
4   casualty, were working in the 326 building, and the same  
5   cell that I found out yesterday that Anita was cleaning.  
6   Cells were being shot above us.

7           Herman Potter, safety person -- to make this  
8   story move, we got into something. It come out on us.

9   I got sick, my lungs granulated. They left me there.  
10  They sent me back. I went to the clinic. They looked  
11  at me, said, "You're okay for work," and sent me back  
to 12 the same, area. Right back. No see and flee. This  
is 13 1994. This is not 1954.

14           And so we worked there the rest of the day.  
15  Paul Walton was never checked. When I come out, I'm  
16  burning all over. I have vascular flash bulb, a rash.  
17  They put me back on the job like that, and I sat all  
day 18 in a chair and spit my lungs out.

19           My wife is a nurse, and I even went to the  
20  hospital because that was the one thing on my mind,  
21  like a boxer that answers the bell. I went to the --  
22  she saw me and said, "My God, what happened to you?"  
23  My face was peeling off. I couldn't tell her because I

24 couldn't talk.

25           And they put me in the hospital, and my hair

1 started coming out and my lungs come out. I didn't have  
2 a bowel movement for 150 hours, and when I did, there  
3 were two pieces of black tar, that's all that come out  
4 after 150 hours.

5           They were giving me massive doses of steroids.  
6 I ate double meals every meal. I was hungry. I was  
7 hurt, and I come out of the hospital ten pounds lighter  
8 than I went in, and I couldn't walk as far as from here  
9 to the other side of the table without sitting down,  
10 without oxygen. I had the breathing capacity of an  
11 87-year-old man.

12           Paul Walton returned to the job the next day.  
13 He was hit again, The man working with him threw up  
14 right at his feet. Other persons were hurt. They  
15 didn't even start air sampling until 2:30 that day. We  
16 got hurt at 8 o'clock in the morning. They were  
17 shooting cells over top of us and didn't check for COF3  
18 for three days.

19           I don't know the combinations, but phosgene --  
20 but they were shooting radiation -- uranium deposits  
21 right above our heads. They did not tell us.

22           I come home from the hospital, and I am  
23 devastated. I was burnt throughout. I was depressed,  
24 and I was weak. I was in good physical shape. My  
25 lungs, they started recovering immediately. My doctor

1 said, "You're in pretty good shape. Good thing."

2 I said, "Yeah, it's a good thing."

3 So I started on my journey of my workers'  
comp,

4 and the first thing I find out when my workers' comp

5 guy, John Harrison -- works somewhere else now. He's  
6 not a guard. Now he got educated and got out of there,  
7 and he's a real good analyst person -- he laid my  
8 records down and said, "Hey, this is changed."

9 I said, "What's changed?"

10 He said, "Your diagnosis is changed, been  
11 altered."

12 I said, "How?"

13 He said, "Taken away from or added to, I can't  
14 tell."

15 So I go to hospital -- clinic, not hospital.

16 That's a misnomer -- clinic at work, and I start --

17 Dr. Lyons is there. They told him I'd just been  
18 subjected to low-level fluorine, and I had anxiety, and  
19 that was it, and the calculated bungling of my  
20 urinalysis didn't show anything. They took it too  
21 early. They didn't follow it up. The hospital threw  
22 away my blood sample that I begged them to take because  
23 I knew I had been exposed to something.

24                    So I find in my documents that they had over a  
25 month later when the lawyers came on board watered down

1 my diagnosis to look like something else and then argued  
2 that I was only burned on the face when the actual  
3 diagnosis was HF inhalation, which I told them I only  
4 suspected. Hell, I didn't know what was going on. They  
5 didn't give me a clue.

6           So I know this information, and I go see a  
7 lawyer. I say, "Man, they can't do that. You look at  
8 the skin. You don't look underneath the skin." Like  
9 one of the men says, the guy says, "Well, I don't see  
10 your injury."

11           I say, "You'd like it a whole lot better if  
I  
12 had an oxygen bottle and a wheelchair, I bet." And  
then 13 I said, "I was hurt, and they changed my record."

14           He said, "Oh, that's done all the time. The judge  
15 won't even look at it."

16           So I come home, and my wife says, "Are you  
17 giving up? I can't believe it. You're not that kind  
of 18 a person." So I moved to Kentucky. I quit my job  
as a 19 councilman. I couldn't take it anywhere.

20           Then I find out that Lockheed Martin and this  
21 Dan Ruggles gave in a deposition that they knew  
22 definitively, never changed their mind, that in  
December 23 of 1994 I was exposed to low level, and they

would not 24 change.

25 Then they made the mistake of asking for a

1 health-hazard evaluation. The plant manager said,  
2 "We'll show you. We will prove you got zero. You got  
3 nothing. You got hurt at home."

4 All those people that got hurt were not at my  
5 house, I'll tell you that right now, and are still  
6 hurt.

7 So we go through this process, and the safety  
8 reps is working on site, the union safety reps.  
They're 9 looking for Herman Potter, Charles Lawson.  
NIOSH comes

10 in, and they say, "What do you think went down?"

11 And Herman says, "I already asked them twice  
12 if

12 they were shooting cells, but they're denying it."  
They 13 denied to the federal investigators that came in,  
denied 14 it.

15 He said, "Well, what did the log say in the  
16 ACR?"

17 I said, "I can't see the log. They won't show  
18 it to me."

19 He said, "Let's go look. I can see it."

20 I said, "They said the log says it's  
not."

21 He said, "Couldn't they have two logs?"

22 And at that time Charles Lawson, being a

23 security-minded type, says, "When I get over  
there, 24 don't you question anything I say."  
25 So they go in, and they look at the log. It's

1 clean, and it says nothing. And Lawson looks at the  
2 area supervisor and says, "Get the other log. We know  
3 about it. We know you got it. Get it. We already know  
4 about it."

5               And he leans to the coworker and says, "Get  
the  
6 other log," and they produce another log, a second log,  
7 that does, in fact, say that they were shooting cells.  
8 They had an argon demograph went off. And this doesn't  
9 stop. You can call it a civil rights violation,  
10 whatever you want to call it. You wove yourself into  
11 the fiber of my home.

12              In 1996 two dosimetry people -- and that is  
the  
13 badge that you wear, the one thing we trusted on that  
14 site to tell us if we had an uptake of uranium -- come  
15 forward and said, "Two men came to us and ordered us  
to 16 zero your readings because you were going to file a  
17 lawsuit."

18              In depositions, subsequent discovery to the  
19 tort suit that I thought I had, we found out they  
20 routinely change badges. We have a system, the CDC  
has 21 identified John Carterelli, and there's a report  
if you 22 read it, it's been rewritten five times. It

went

23 through peer review in Washington, D.C. because the  
24 language was so strong about neutron exposure and  
things 25 like that.

45

1                   And so the badges were put in an  
2   administrative bucket or a bucket dose. We got  
3   buildings a quarter of a mile long. If someone got  
hurt 4   in the PW, they would average two other people  
somewhere 5   down the other end of building and assign  
that dose to  
6   the man. So he didn't get his own dose. He got two  
7   other people's dose, the average.

8                   They said the only reason they questioned  
mine  
9   was because they said it was for a lawsuit. The  
10   security, head of security's husband, was one of the  
two 11   people who signed that order to change my badge,  
and she 12   investigated it. They had different names so  
it did not 13   reflect that they were husband and wife.  
And her name 14   was Jeanne Parker and his is Gary  
McDukes. She reported 15   directly to the plant manager.  
Gary McDukes is dead. I 16   don't know why or how he  
died. He was a young man, but 17   he's dead.

18                  Mike Smith was forced to resign and went  
into  
19   hiding, as far as I know. He was hard to find. But  
20   he's still working in the DOE system somewhere,

21 somewhere. You have people in that plant that  
committed 22 criminal wrong that are still in this  
system. They're 23 still in the system, and they need  
to be identified.

24               You talk about uranium and technetium,  
25 plutonium. I was thinking about my dad when I came  
to

46 1 work this morning, because I have a long drive.  
I was 2 thinking about my dad, because we saw each  
other. He 3 had been blown up in the Battle of the  
Bulge. When I 4 got out of the hospital, when I  
thought about it, the 5 big one, as they say, I looked  
-- we looked at each  
6 other, one of the few times we have been really serious  
7 to each other. He always held things inside, and I  
8 said, "I saw it, dad. I saw it." And he said, "Yeah, I  
9 know. I know."

10 But what come to me this morning is the one  
11 thing that you're fighting that you can't identify or  
no 12 meter sees it, but it's your job to see the tyranny,  
13 falsification, lying, covering up, zeroing of badges.  
14 This will reverberate through the whole United States  
15 because the SST drivers who haul uranium, they don't  
get 16 exposed anymore than we do. We haul it in the  
open.

17 They haul it with guns out ready, don't even try them.  
18 They got a 20-year retirement. The government, you, 19  
gave it to them.

20 How many more days do we have to walk point 21  
while someone else walks our slack? Maybe we will get  
22 the bullet today. How many more missions do we have to  
23 fly? We are talking compensation, 20-year retirement.

24 We still have a combination of 85 points, but the  
25 checks and balance system is what is in question here,

1 checks and balance.

2 I don't need to tell you your jobs. My  
3 lawyer's name is Stephen Edwards. It is my intent to  
4 file a federal false claims suit against Lockheed  
Martin 5 for the actions taken against me, and that's all  
I have 6 to say.

7 MR. BEEKMAN: Eddie Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: I'm a production process operator.  
9 I worked at the plant for years. The last few years I  
10 worked in purge cascade. Dr. Michaels, you are aware  
11 what purge cascade is. They vent all the stuff we  
don't 12 want.

13 Anyway, we have a problem at purge cascade  
that  
14 should be addressed. We have technetium, which is real  
15 nasty element. Anyway, it started probably in the late  
16 '70s and exists still today. Anyway they were supposed  
17 to check for people -- put people to test what the  
stuff 18 did to you. They do urinalysis, and as far as I  
know, 19 the only thing they checked for was uranium.

20 Now, you don't get results of the urinalysis  
21 until you're hot. Then you got them. In other words,  
22 if you don't hear anything, you are supposed to be all  
23 right. Anyway, this is one example of lack of  
24 information that's prevalent at that plant.



1 the extent of my past exposures of technetium, what it  
2 can do to me, and what I can do to protect my health  
as 3 I retire when I was exposed. I only hope the  
health

4 program, which I recently participated, can be of use  
to 5 current workers, and this investigation will help  
clear 6 this stuff up.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. BEEKMAN: Barbara Estep Barker.

9 MS. BARKER: Thank you. My name is Barbara  
10 Estep Barker, and if anybody read the Columbus Dispatch  
11 yesterday, this was my husband. He started to work at  
12 Goodyear Atomic in January of 1976 as a janitor. He  
got 13 promoted to a truck driver.

14 One of his duties as a truck driver was to  
15 carry contaminated equipment. I know he worked with  
16 that on an everyday basis. In March of 1978, a  
cylinder 17 of uranium hexafluoride was dropped in the  
parking lot. 18

The buggy they used to move this cylinder came  
19 from the Oak Ridge dump. It had dropped a cylinder the  
20 day before, and it had not ruptured, but it also had  
not 21 been fixed.

22 The afternoon that they dropped the cylinder

23 it was snowing. They panicked because the uranium  
24 hexafluoride was going to get into the drains and into  
25 the groundwater. So they called for the truck drivers

1 to build a dam and to throw snow on the uranium to keep  
2 it from going up in the air.

3           The truck drivers done this with no  
4 protection. They had on coveralls and their work  
5 boots.

6           I remember Ken telling me the next day, "Gee,  
7 not only are my coveralls and my boots not in my locker,  
8 but my locker is not there." They took them that  
9 night. There was no urine count done on these guys, so  
10 they don't know what they were exposed to.

11           About a week or so later he showed me a  
prickly  
12 heat that came out on his body or a rash, and he said  
13 one of the other guys had it, too. So they went to the  
14 hospital to show them what they had, but they were  
15 dismissed. It was nothing. If you see the paper, you  
16 can also see that he buried contaminated ore. He told  
17 those stories.

18           In January of 1985 he developed a pocket in  
19 between his sternum that started growing, and he said,  
20 "This little thing, as I move, I have nowhere for it to  
21 go." So we went to the doctor to see what this growth  
22 was.

23           They told us, and they cut it out, that it was  
24 a cartilage growing wild. He said, "At 42, what makes

25 this happen?" Well, they had no idea, but it was okay.

1           In April of that year he was driving out there  
2 and working and he passed out. They took him to the  
3 hospital at Pike County and sent him home and had no  
4 idea.

5           From then on it was pain, trying to figure out  
6 where this pain was coming from and what these problems  
7 are. We doctored from one to the other. And in August  
8 they finally done biopsies and found out that he had a  
9 very rare form of liver cancer. The tumor on the inside  
10 of the liver was the size of a softball. There was  
11 nothing we could do. He died in November.

12           I'd just say that I lost my husband. My  
13 children lost their father. There's grandchildren that  
14 never knew their grandfather.

15           I don't think this would happen today because  
16 I  
17 think they're more trained. I filed a workmen's  
18 compensation claim, but it was dismissed.

19           I just hope that this meeting today will bring  
20 about more safety for the people that are working there  
21 today.

22           Thank you.

23           MR. BEEKMAN: Jeanne Cisco.

24           MS. CISCO: My name is Jeanne Cisco. I am the  
current benefits representative for our local, and I'm

25 here to speak on behalf of a man who is too ill to be

1 here today.

2           May of this year he found out that he had  
3 cancer in his colon, lymph nodes and liver. He had an  
4 operation on his colon, and they got most of the cancer,  
5 and they took out several lymph nodes, and now he's  
6 doing chemotherapy at Cleveland Clinic for his liver.  
7 The prognosis was six months to live.

8           He began chemo the middle of August, and he  
has

9 to take it for six months with radiation following.  
I'm 10 going to read you a letter from Cleveland Clinic.  
I'm 11 not going to mention his name. I don't have his  
12 permission.

13           "It was nice to meet with you and your family  
14 on August 17, 1999 in the clinic. You were referred by  
15 Dr. Budd to discuss the possibility of an inherited  
16 cancer syndrome.

17           "Although a significant number of your family  
18 members have had cancer, there does not appear to be  
19 evidence of an inherited cancer syndrome. The risk of  
20 cancer increases with age; however, many environmental  
21 factors contribute to the risk of cancer, such as 22  
smoking or radiation exposure. Oral, lung and skin  
23 cancer often have a significant environmental cause

that 24 probably does not result from an inherited  
cancer  
25 syndrome.

52 1

"The risk for anyone in the general population  
2 to develop colon cancer is about five to six percent.  
3 If there is a family history of colon cancer, then  
the 4 chance to develop the colon cancer is increased.

5 "No other person in your family is known to  
6 have colon cancer. If any of your family history  
7 information changes, we would like to reevaluate this  
8 information."

9 Tim came to me, and he wanted me to help him  
10 because he had so many medical bills, go through and  
11 make sure that his current insurance was paying them  
12 properly.

13 So I do that once a week. I go to his house  
14 and I get the bills, and I call Connecticut General,  
and 15 we try to get those straightened out. We have a  
90-10 16 indemnity plan with \$600 max out of pocket per  
person

17 per year. Tim will be paying quite a bit of money  
this 18 year out of his pocket.

19 After he got the letter and I seen it, I  
said,

20 "Tim, maybe you should file a workers' comp claim."

21 He said, "I'm afraid. I'm afraid they will

quit 22 paying my bills now and they will cut off my  
sick-pay

23 benefits," which will only get him through January.

24 So we sat down, and we looked at our

retirement

25 benefits and the insurance coverage he would have if  
he

53 1 took a disability retirement. He can't retire  
because 2 the two options of insurance coverage is a  
PPO or an

3 HMO, and they could change his doctors, and he can't  
4 leave the Cleveland Clinic.

5 So he struggled with what to do, and our  
6 contract provides you can not be terminated for two  
7 years. So what he had to choose was to run out of  
8 nonoccupational disability pay in January, wait out his  
9 two years and continue to pay his present insurance. I  
10 think this is sad.

11 And for me I want to say something. My  
husband

12 works there, too, and I took a lot of flack for coming  
13 down here today. I think our workers have lived under  
a 14 type of fear. I have been out there 25 years. I  
never 15 spoke of any releases. I didn't discuss anything  
with 16 anybody that didn't work at that plant because I  
was

17 taught if I did that, I would put our country at risk,  
18 so we didn't talk about that stuff. It was a security  
19 issue.

20 I've also been a Division 2 committee person  
21 for six years, and in looking at the workers'

22 compensation claims that have been filed or attempted  
to 23 be filed, many were not. During the time period I  
24 represented those people.  
25 The NRC is getting ready to come in, and we

1 were disciplined if we made a mistake. We didn't say  
2 anything if we were in a release because our people were  
3 fired, and we didn't. There, again, fear.

4 And, finally, going back to my husband, he  
told

5 me, "Don't come down here today, Jeanne. You're going  
6 to shut our plant down. We're afraid you're going to  
7 shut our plant down, and who is going to hire us?  
Who 8 is going to insure us?"

9 You have how many people that work at that  
10 plant? We're afraid. That's all.

11 MR. BEEKMAN: Roger Knauff.

12 MR. KNAUFF: Of course, I can tell you a lot  
of

13 different stories. But I have a question I would like  
14 to ask and make a case in point. The question I'd like  
15 to ask, awhile back I was informed that we had the  
16 exposures to neutron radiation, and as far as I know, I  
17 don't think that we have even been monitored for  
neutron 18 radiation, and I wonder what other types of  
chemicals or 19 radioactive hazards we may have been  
exposed to and not 20 even been monitored for?

21 The other day I worked at the cylinder lots.  
22 If any of you guys have been out there, we moved and we  
23 stacked all these cylinders. The yards look real good.  
24 The other day we're informed they were finding PCBs in  
25 the paint chips where we were scraping the paint and

the

1 rust off, and we just completed the project, and they  
2 come out and tell us, so the protection just kind of was  
3 hung out to dry.

4 Another case in point, I've worked there 25  
5 years since 1975. I worked in the cylinders. We  
6 transferred ten-ton cylinders to two-and-a-half-ton  
7 cylinders for product orders. The areas I worked in,  
8 frequently we had releases. I mean, we worked with  
9 operators, have valves that leaked all time and  
10 continual problems.

11 We had an air sampling system card you put in  
12 and run. You read the results. Then the urinalysis  
13 system, they check urine weekly to monthly, just 14  
depended, to see if you is getting any exposure.

15 Well, the big problem was that everything  
was

16 on a time delay. I mean, three days after they  
pulled 17 an air sample, they would come back and say,  
"You

18 guys" -- they pull it on Friday -- "what happened  
19 Monday? Your air samples are high." That does you  
a 20 lot of good to know on Friday that you had  
problems 21 Monday.

22 The same thing with the urinalysis. You  
give

23   them a urine sample.  They come back and say, "What  
24   happened last week?  Your guys' urine samples were  
25   high."  Everything is always after the fact you have been

exposed, and it's kind of bad you have a system where 2  
everything was so contaminated and you had so much  
3 airborne problems, that you always found out after the 4  
fact you had been exposed. It doesn't do you any good.

5               So we complained. We had meetings, and finally  
6 they said, "We're going to give you real-time air  
7 monitoring. If an airborne gets high, it will kick off,  
8 alarms is going to off and you leave the area."

9               They put them in, and they lasted about a week.  
10 They kept going off. So, you know, they took them out,  
11 and you go back to the same old system.

12              So, I mean, I just question, you know, the  
13 integrity of the whole operation. That's all I've 14  
really got to say. I think there needs to be an 15  
investigation. How do you make it right?

16              We have been exposed. It's too late to do  
us

17 any good. Hopefully, we can live through all this  
and 18 not have any long-term effects, but you still  
always 19 wonder in the back of your mind. You hear  
about urine 20 samples saying you had the exposure.

It's coming

21 through in urine samples, and how much of it is left  
in 22 your body? You don't know.

23                    So it's one of the things, it's important for  
24 long-term health care, just 20, 30 years it generally  
25 takes for this stuff to really have an effect on the

1 body.

2 That's all I'd like to say.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: An explanation, it was  
radon

4 gas they said set them off.

5 MR. FOUT: I have stuff, Dr Michaels, I'd  
like

6 to give you. Hopefully you will review it and it will  
7 be of some value to help us get the benefits we really  
8 need.

9 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. FOUT: Excuse me. I get a little nervous  
11 in front of crowds. I apologize if my voice sounds a  
12 little shaky. I am somewhat bashful. I attribute  
that 13 to an overbearing mother.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. FOUT: Not really.

16 I want to be as brief as possible and try not  
17 to bore you too much. That's my effort. My name is  
18 Larry Fout. I am an employee currently at the Piketon  
19 facility. My basic occupation, I'm a chemical operator.  
20 I work in the areas you already heard about. I won't  
21 talk about those areas, as some of these people most  
22 adequately already talked about them.

23 What I really want to discuss is my service

as

24 a workers' comp rep began in 1990, and I was either  
the 25 workers' comp rep or the alternate rep until  
January of

1 1999.

2           And I just want for you to hear the  
3 reiterations of people who have tried to get into the  
4 system that you have already heard and those,  
5 unfortunately, that you can't hear now because they're  
6 no longer with us, how futile it has been and  
continues 7 to be because of the inadequacies of system,  
along with 8 the fact the employer that we work for now  
made the

9 statement that regardless of the nature of the claim,  
if 10 it was an occupational disease claim, that they  
intended 11 to fight it to the fullest extent, and in  
doing so, they 12 have employed one of the largest, most  
powerful law  
13 firms in the state of Ohio and sent them expeditiously  
14 to every low-level hearing that we had.

15           And in doing so I think it was a successful  
16 strategy, because I think the figures will show -- I  
17 don't have these figures -- that either we didn't  
file 18 them or if we filed them, we lost them. So the  
system 19 that was set up to compensate us injured  
workers and  
20 diseased workers on the job in fact worked against  
us, 21 as you heard from some of the earlier testimony  
of

22 Mr. Elkins and others. And you will hear it from  
other 23 people.

24 I said I won't repeat. There are other  
people

25 that you should hear to testify to you and tell you  
of

59 1 some of the horror stories. Unfortunately,  
they can't 2 be here. They are no longer with us.

3 We, I guess, were victims of a policy of  
4 privacy and secrecy, and we were told, as Ms. Cisco  
5 reiterated a while ago, that we worked in one of the  
6 safest industries in the world, if not the safest  
7 industry in the world, the atomic energy industry.  
8 Nothing was there that could hurt us. But don't talk  
9 about it. Don't tell your wife. Don't tell your  
kids.

10 So we didn't. We didn't talk to our  
families.

11 We didn't talk to our friends. More or less we didn't  
12 talk to our doctors. So if nobody knew what we were  
13 working with or exposed to, how could they ever  
relate 14 that to our job?

15 So I just, on behalf of the workers who have  
16 fought the Cold War in factories of the United States  
of 17 America and here in Piketon, I just ask for you to  
help 18 those of us who are now fighting for our lives.  
We need 19 your support, and we thank you for being  
here. We just 20 ask you, please, hear our cry, and let  
it not be in  
21 vain.

22 MR. BEEKMAN: Dorothy Meade Hardin.

23 MS. HARDIN: This has opened up some old

wounds

24 for me. My husband was Charles Gary Meade. We were  
32 25 years old when he died. I delivered my son two  
weeks

60 1 after he died. He hired in in the spring of  
1954, and 2 he loved his job. He worked until 1964  
when he

3 developed something that was like a kidney infection,  
4 and that went on for several months.

5 In February he went into the hospital with a  
6 raging fever. He was in the hospital for 21 days,  
and

7 they couldn't find out why he had this fever. He  
got 8 out, and seemingly he was okay, except he had a  
low  
9 white count.

10 He went back to work, and he worked two  
weeks,

11 three weeks, the same thing happened. That was the  
12 scenario from then until on June 29 I had to call an  
13 ambulance to lift him off of the bed he got such a 14  
severe pain in his back.

15 It took him a week down at the hospital to  
get

16 him stabilized so we could get him to Columbus. He  
17 lived five weeks to the day from the time that they  
18 diagnosed it as leukemia.

19 The doctor at the time asked me after he died

20 if he could perform an autopsy. I was ready to have a  
21 child, and I was under stress, and he said, "We may  
find 22 something that would help someone else."

23 I thought Gary would love it if he would find  
24 something that would help someone else, so I agreed to  
25 the autopsy. I know he also told me at the time, "If

1 you want to sue, I will help you any way I can."

2 I said, "How do you sue your government? No,  
I

3 don't want to do that."

4 When I went back, they told me they didn't  
find

5 anything other than his platelets were gone and he just  
6 drowned in his own blood. His lungs filled up with  
7 blood, and he drowned in his own blood.

8 But in the late '70s there was a film crew  
that

9 came here from England. They wanted to do a  
10 documentary, and this whole community was so afraid  
that 11 no one would talk to them, and someone gave them  
my

12 name, and the lady delved into it.

13 They smuggled his records and told me how at  
14 the time that he had the highest count was in 1958. If  
15 you're going to get leukemia from it, they said it  
would 16 be within five to seven years. In seven years he  
was

17 dead.

18 They talked to Dr. Wall, and he denied that he  
19 told me that he would help me sue. And I said, "I know

20 I was under stress, but I was not crazy."

21 I have since tried to get his records. They

22 found the file number, but the records were gone.

They 23 have since found the records, and I'm in the

process of 24 trying to get those from University

Hospital.

25 You know, I was in the dark. They were told

62 1 don't talk about it. The one thing he did tell  
me,

2 though, was "Don't let the kids touch my shoes," and  
I 3 never let them touch his shoes, but I still have  
those 4 shoes in the attic. If anybody is interested  
in

5 checking the shoes, they're still there.

6 He loved his country. He loved his job, and  
he

7 done what he was told, and he died, but they brought me  
8 a check. They said, "We'll pay for the baby. And the  
9 beginning of the next month, you take over your  
10 insurance."

11 And I did. I struggled. I didn't even know  
12 there was such a thing as filing a workmen's comp. I  
13 have a son that never saw his dad. I have two  
daughters 14 that lost their father, and I lost my  
husband.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BEEKMAN: Don Crusan.

17 MR. CRUSAN: Good to see everyone. Don  
Crusan,

18 maintenance electrician. I have worked some type of  
19 shift work for most of the 24 years I have been there.

20 I have seen a lot of serious violations, things I  
21 thought should be corrected, things I got in trouble  
for 22 reporting as being a problem, and not so much a  
problem 23 as upset me, as bothered me, the way they're  
handled,  
24 the way that people are punished for bringing them to  
25 light.

1           Less than a month ago I applied for an  
2   electrical foreman job, and two or three of the foremen  
3   were present. The foremen came to me and told me it  
4   would be important for me to pick the right crew to be  
5   in charge of, because if you get someone off on  
6   disability or workmen's comp or just happened to be  
7   someone that's having health problems not there, that's  
8   counted against the foreman and you get no bonus.

9           To me that would explain some of the reasons  
10   for this harassment from supervision to an employee  
11   that's having health problems or a worker gets injured  
12   on the job. That's basically what upsets me.

13           They have done numerous things in the past  
that  
14   I've seen, exposures, being sent on a job and doing the  
15   job you was told was okay. It was clear. You are  
ready 16   to go. As we are finishing the electrical work,  
and you 17   look around, and here come workers covered up,  
air  
18   suits, complete body suits, and wondering, "Where are  
19   those guys going?" Then they show up on the same job  
20   you're on, and you say, "Well, what am I doing here?"  
21   It's a complete disrespect for human life.

22           Thank you much.

23                   MR. BEEKMAN:   Stanley McNelly.

24                   MR. McNELLY:   You may have all read in the  
25 paper, I am Stanley McNelly.   I hired in down there as  
a

1 janitor, and I am lucky to be alive today. Nobody knows  
2 what I went through. I am 79 years old. I was down  
3 there one day, and I went in the 342 building. I went  
4 in the restroom, just sat down on the commode, and the  
5 siren went off. I was never scared so bad in my  
life, 6 never heard anything like it.

7           Some guy come running through there and  
said,

8 "Clear the building." If I'd went right, I'd been  
all 9 right, but I went left. When I come out that  
front

10 door, there's a load loader that sat out there, and  
I

11 knew where it was at, and I was afraid when I come  
out 12 of there running, I couldn't see nothing. And  
it was a 13 solid fog, and it was going fast through  
the air.

14           And I started running out and thought I hit  
the

15 load loader that will be the end of me. So I put my  
16 hands out like this, both of them, kept running,  
holding 17 my breath, and thought where's that load  
loader? If I 18 get past that, I can really go. But I  
kept feeling, and 19 I couldn't get the load loader out

of my mind.

20                    So I run out of air, and I had to breathe.

21   When I breathed it just seemed like hot something  
went 22   down my throat, like a steam went right down my  
throat.   23   So I run on.   A little bit I run out of air  
again, so I 24   had to breathe again.   I thought, oh, my

God, I'm

25   breathing that stuff.

65 1

So for that time, I figured I was past that  
2 load loader so I began to run, and I seen I couldn't  
3 stand too much of that. So I run way out there. I  
4 think that's Pike Avenue, and I was running out of  
5 steam.

6 So I goes home, and I didn't tell me wife,  
7 because she'd have a nervous breakdown. I didn't want  
8 to bother her because I knowed I'd be in trouble again.  
9 She had a lot of problems, me with her, so I kept  
10 everything under my hat.

11 But, anyhow, when I went through that, some  
12 guy, he grabbed me and took me down to the hospital,  
and 13 they said, "What happened?" I told them. They  
said,

14 "Forget it. You can eat that stuff."

15 I said, "You might tell me you can eat it,"  
but

16 I said, "I don't feel right."

17 "Well, go back on your job. You'll be all  
18 right."

19 So the next morning I woke up, and I just felt  
20 like if you went out to the barn and opened up the big  
21 barn doors, you know how the wind goes through? That's

22 the way my lungs felt.

23               The next day or two I began to cough, and I  
24 would cough up stuff and could feel it tear loose down  
25 in my lungs and come up my throat into my mouth and on

1 my tongue. There it was, just like a butter bean. It  
2 was real clear. I tried to spit it out, and I could  
not 3 spit that out of my mouth. I'd reach up like this.  
It 4 was kind of embarrassing to reach up in front of  
people, 5 and I'd reach up like that and get it. I could  
not pull 6 my thumb away from it hardly, but finally I  
would. Then 7 I'd try to sling it off my hand, and I  
could not sling

8 that gob of stuff off of my fingers.

9               So I'd go up to a truck fender, corner of a  
10 building, and I would roll it off, and it would roll  
11 off. Paul Plummer was a foreman down there. He's dead  
12 now. Paul, he seen me walk up to his truck, and he  
13 said, "My God, Mack, what are you rubbing on my truck?"

14               I said, "Paul, looky here. I'm in trouble."

I

15 said, "I can't get this off of my fingers."

16               He said, "What's wrong?"

17               So I explained it to him. So, anyhow, I done  
18 that for 12 months, and finally it quit. So then I  
19 can't tell you just how long after that I come down  
with 20 colon cancer. Ponce de Leon, he's dead now, but  
anyhow, 21 he was my doctor. He done a real good job. I  
always

22 wear a shirt so I can show you. I'm split wide open.

23 He said, "McNelly, what happened to you?"

24 And I told him what happened down at the

plant.

25 He said, "Do you reckon that the end of the

1 night you might have swallowed some of the stuff?"

2 I said, "I wouldn't have the slightest idea."

3 He said, "But when I operated on you," he  
said,

4 "I never seen nothing like it." But he said, "I want  
to 5 promise you one thing." He held his hands out. He  
6 said, "I took in the center, I cut your colon out. I  
7 pulled it right back down and sewed it together," and he  
8 said, "I think you're going to be all right. I won't  
9 have to put a colostomy or nothing on your side." He  
10 said, "I think you'll be all right."

11 So that's what happened. I don't know how I  
12 survived all of that, but anyhow, yet today every once  
13 in while my wife says, "Quit talking." I'm an  
14 auctioneer. She says, "Quit talking."

15 I said, "Well, we have been married 59 years.  
16 I'd still like to talk to you."

17 She said, "You're getting hoarse."

18 Now, I'm not hoarse all the time, but every  
19 once in a while, I develop a hoarseness. I don't know  
20 if it's from that or what, but anyhow I'm just lucky  
to 21 be here today.

22 I want to thank all your people for listening  
23 to me. Thank you.

24 MS. COLLEY: I want to thank the union for  
all  
25 the effort they have done, and I want to thank the

1 representatives for being here today. It's been a long  
2 time, a hard struggle, 14 years. The Department of  
3 Energy has used economic blackmail and the threat of  
4 plant closure to suppress the health and safety concerns  
5 here at Piketon.

6           Workers here are being exposed to hazardous  
7 chemicals, highly radioactive uranium gases, the same  
8 health and safety issues that keep surfacing and  
has 9 surfaced since the beginning of this plant.

10           The former worker health protection program  
is  
11 a good program, but we're not being tested for  
chemical 12 and radiation exposures. Congress wants to  
spend \$1.6 13 billion for clean-up, which is great. They  
don't want 14 to spend zero on you.

15           When I hear all these stories and know what I  
16 have gone through, it's really been hard. I have been  
17 in Washington, D.C. lobbying on behalf of all of us. I  
18 had to tell people that I had a total hysterectomy.  
My 19 body parts were taken out. My tissue has been  
missing. 20

I  
get phone calls from workers that have been  
21 sick, and all I can do is write down their names and  
22 write down their problems, because we have not been

able 23 to get anyone to listen to us.

24 Last night I spent a couple hours with David  
25 Michaels, and I give him this many documents. My fight

1 started in 1980 when I first started in in the  
2 facility. I wasn't told that I was working with  
3 hazardous or radioactive material. I was a second-class  
4 electrician, and I have been in every building on this  
5 plant site.

6 I thought at first I was being exposed to PCB  
7 and trichloroethylene. We used trichloroethylene to  
8 clean down uranium-contaminated transformers.

9 I found out later that this uranium that's  
10 leaking through the gaskets and not staying in the  
11 system also has uranium, and now I wouldn't be  
surprised 12 that if it doesn't have plutonium and  
neptunium.

13 I just now refinanced my house again for  
14 \$60,000 to keep this story going. I have fought the  
15 workers' compensation. I have been paid workers'  
16 compensation for chemical exposure. I have had three  
17 tumors, a total hysterectomy. I've had chronic  
18 bronchitis. I've had thyroid problems. I've had my  
19 hair has fallen out. I've had muscle joint problems.

20 In the last year and a half I fell and  
broke

21 my ankle. I fell and broke the pins. I pulled a  
22 meniscus in my knee. I had a tumor in the back of my

23 neck. I fell six or seven months ago and broke this

24 side of my face.

25 I don't know what's going to happen when I  
get

1 up tomorrow morning. Some days I feel good. Some days  
2 I don't. I also wanted to say last night that give  
3 Dr. Michaels a deposition from Michael Tulluh and Gene  
4 Ferrell, who can't be here, and I want their  
deposition 5 in the record. I'd also like to have to  
copy of this 6 deposition and the videotape you're  
taping today.

7           Through my research I got thousands of  
8 documents in my house. I have been able to give them  
to 9 Jonathan Riskind with some help of other people who  
give  
10 him documents also. I have been with Susie Thompson.  
I 11 was at her husband's funeral home. I promised Owen  
at 12 his death I would make sure this story never drops.

13           I have family members who are mad at me  
because

14 I got family members who work at the plant. I have had  
15 union workers mad at me because they thought I was  
16 shutting the plant down. I have had community people  
17 mad at me because they thought I was working too hard  
18 for you workers. I'm not working for anybody. I'm  
not 19 getting paid.

20           In 1987 I was taken off of a workers'  
21 compensation because this facility has falsified my

22 medical records, sent me to a doctor called Dr. George  
23 Ishman, who examined me. He had said my stomach was  
24 somewhat fatty, but the workers' compensation didn't  
25 tell him to do any tests. Three months later, I had  
a

71 1 total hysterectomy.

2           So I'm not laid off. I'm not employed. The  
3 company has me dangling out here somewhere. They  
sent 4 me to doctors who weren't qualified in the  
Bureau of  
5 Workers' Compensation. They would -- they were ordered  
6 at the last hearing to send me to a toxicologist.

7           Well, they finally sent me to a toxicologist  
in  
8 Columbus, Ohio who is called Dr. Michael Kelly. He was  
9 not told to examine me for toxicology. He was told to  
10 examine me for depression. So he couldn't give an  
11 opinion on the depression, because that was not his  
12 area, but he thought I was very depressed.

13           In the oxide conversion facility I had  
readings  
14 of workers that were really high. These guys had to go  
15 to Oak Ridge, Tennessee. They decontaminated them and  
16 sent them back up here. Most of those workers in E  
area 17 have died now. Their widows received zero amount  
of  
18 money.

19           Herb Smith back in 1965 received \$12,500 for  
20 radiation exposure, and today we're still trying to 21

prove that we have been exposed to radiation. We  
22 shouldn't have to prove anything. The government has  
23 already paid it.  
24           This is a congressional document from Senator  
25 Glenn when I thought I was just working with PCBs, and

1 then asking questions in 1985, I think it was, about  
the 2 uranium. Are you sure that that oil it is just  
uranium 3 or just PCBs?

4 This is a court document here of one doctor  
5 from workers' compensation named Dr. Grodner, who has  
6 seen many of us workers. He was paid \$325 for a  
7 15-minute visit or less. He was a pulmonary doctor.

He

8 was not a toxicologist. He did find problems with my  
9 lungs, but workers' comp did nothing about that. So he  
10 got 100 patients. He made \$32,500. That's good  
money. 11 And I gave them this. This  
is the court

12 deposition on Richard Magee, who filed a lawsuit for  
13 trichloroethylene.

14 This is my record of excellence when I first  
15 came here because they hire healthy workers because it  
16 takes us longer to get sick.

17 My last workers' comp hearing, this is really  
18 hilarious, they didn't care what my doctor said. They  
19 didn't care what any doctor said. They called me an  
20 anti-nuker, an activist. I showed great leadership  
21 skills and should be able to get a job anywhere, but  
who 22 in the hell is going to hire me? Can they get me  
up out 23 of bed and take me to work?

24                   This is a book I bought for workers'  
25   compensation doctors to tell them how to turn you down.

1 \$100 for this book. So they have it all writ out for  
2 them. All they have to do is put your name in it.

3 This is a list of workers that I have been  
able

4 to gather their names and lists and a list that I found  
5 of workers who are sick or got cancer or who has died.

6 This has been the biggest cover-up in the  
7 United States. I'm asking for full investigation of  
8 someone who is independent of the Department of Energy  
9 and has never been paid by the Department of Energy.  
10 There is plenty of good doctors out that I met all  
over 11 the United States that is able to do this.

12 As an electrician, I crawled on all kind of  
13 piping, dust, uranium. Rick Mingus is here. He's not  
14 going speak because he doesn't like crowds. Neither do  
15 I. But he's got colon cancer. He's 42 years old. He  
16 has two daughters to support. Who's going to help him  
17 out? Is this government going to help him out? Are  
the 18 politicians going to help us? Are we ever going to  
get 19 our workers' compensation?

20 We have got records that I gave you last night  
21 to this facility. And I see Mr. Gillespie is gone. I  
22 wouldn't know why he left. But, anyway, I have records  
23 from the doctor of the facility that this company lied  
24 and falsified my records saying I had been treated by

25 doctors that I hadn't been treated by. That's a crime.



19 system. And I know for sure that we have almost had  
20 three criticalities at the facility.

21 I want this facility cleaned up. I don't  
want

22 the government to walk away from this community. I  
23 don't want them to walk away from the workers.

24 And I could probably stay up here all day,  
but

25 I know there are other people that needs to talk, and

1 people have been listening to me for 14 years.

2 DR. MICHAELS: I want to make one brief  
3 comment. We have to until about 12:30. We want to  
4 encourage everybody to speak, so we would like you to  
5 keep your remarks to just a couple of minutes, and  
6 anyone we don't get to, we have a number of staff here  
7 that will stay after and make sure we get in contact  
8 with you. We don't want to miss anybody.

9 MR. WHITT: I'm quite hoarse this morning.  
10 This has been occurring for sometime. I'd like to  
first 11 thank Dr. Michaels and the good senators for all  
their 12 patience, I'm sure this is quite trying, also,  
our  
13 little union that's struggled so hard and worked so  
hard 14 to have this come about, and all of you other  
people  
15 that has also contributed much.

16 I'd like to thank, if you don't mind, the  
17 medical profession that's made it possible for us to  
be 18 here this morning, lots of us.

19 My name is Bob Whitt. I'm a retiree. I went  
20 to work at the plant as a production operator in 1954,  
21 and I was chosen or scheduled to become one of the  
first 22 production operators to operate the extended

product

23 withdrawal station. Gentlemen, that was the first  
place 24 that we drew product from the plant, and there  
was a lot 25 to be learned about that facility.

1           I'm not going to go into too much detail  
about

2   my own work in the hazardous conditions because every  
3   one of these, almost without exception, are close  
4   friends of mine that you have already heard their  
5   stories and how they were exposed and their  
illnesses 6   and their sickness and the friends that no  
longer are 7   here with us.

8           I wrote up this little speech or whatever  
you

9   want to call it. I find it very difficult to stay with  
10   that, and I know your time is valuable. I want to  
11   commend you again for listening to our tales of our  
12   situation and what's happened to us.

13           But I'd like to say at this time that after I  
14   retired that I became very familiar with these  
problems, 15   health problems, of the retirees because I,  
myself, and 16   a few of my friends organized a retiree  
club. We

17   presently have luncheons every three months, and we  
18   learn of each other's illnesses, who passes away and so  
19   forth. It's very sad to us, although we try to make  
the 20   best of it.

21           Yesterday Dr. Michaels and myself and two of

my

22 coworkers retirees were with the group that toured the  
23 plant, and I'd like to commend our government for the  
24 money that they have spent to try to bring back our 25  
environment like it once was.

1           The only thing, it makes me feel today like,  
2   you know, we are in a situation where we need to prove  
3   to them that our illnesses are work-related. I feel as  
4   though we are on trial up here today, and you gentlemen  
5   are the judge and the jury, because you're going to have  
6   to make decisions as to what you think actually  
7   happened.

8           I'd like to say this much. I'd like to  
9   conclude this brief message to you. You were witnesses,  
10   many of you, yesterday and you seen what a terrible  
11   thing that happened to our environment, and you spent  
12   lots and lots of money.

13           I'd like to challenge you today, how in the  
14   world did this happen? We, the workers, caused this  
15   with explicit instructions and no knowledge of what  
16   we were doing. We caused this terrible problem of  
17   contamination. We're the culprits. We did it. We  
18   were instruments of the destruction without our  
19   knowledge,  
20   with no knowledge of such.

21           So I ask you today, how could this terrible  
22   destruction to our environment with us being the  
23   instruments that did all this destruction, how could  
24   this be without us becoming also part of the  
25   environment. We are a part of it, gentlemen. We were  
the ones that was used as instruments to do this

1 destruction.

2           There's no way that you can come to any other  
3 conclusions to say that we're not just as contaminated,  
4 our bodies, as the soil and the dirt and the groundwater  
5 that we viewed yesterday.

6           I hope that you'll make a great decision,  
7 because our country needs men like you, people that are  
8 willing to listen, and I commend you for this, and I  
9 thank you.

10           MR. MINTER: My name is Dan Minter. I am  
11 president of the local, and I will try to be brief,  
12 since, as I say, there's so much to say and so little  
13 time for me to it say that I'm sure folks wouldn't  
14 believe it.

15           I want to thank the Senators, who aren't here  
16 now. They have schedule conflicts, but I want to thank  
17 the Congressman and Senators for their time, and  
clearly 18 as you heard from them, this message from us  
getting to 19 them, and I think that very important, so I  
think the

20 government heard that this morning, so I won't repeat  
21 all the process.

22           I have some more documents they collected,  
23 including the 1962 document that Senator DeWine  
brought 24 up this morning, so I will give you those  
documents for 25 you. That's only a portion. I'm sure we  
can come up

1 with a few more.

2 Another thing I want to just show folks,  
3 basically I will provide to the group as well, but this  
4 is a single particle of plutonium. It's only one  
5 hazardous product that we deal with, and it's  
radiating 6 10,000 cells on contact in an A block, which  
is a study 7 done by the Department of Energy, and this  
just gives  
8 you an idea of the hazards we were exposed to in the  
9 past.

10 And I want to provide that to you folks as  
11 well. Again, that's a document from the Department  
of 12 Energy, by the way, so it's again relevant, and  
I'll 13 provide that to you as well. I put in an  
overhead for 14 you if you need to use that in the  
future as well.

15 I guess everyone here, I will cut it to a real  
16 short time so you folks can give your stories that you  
17 are telling the things from the past. Clearly you  
folks 18 have brought that message to me and conveyed it  
to the 19 folks that can make a difference, but coming  
from you, I 20 think is where it really means a lot.

21 At the present, obviously, the plant is still  
22 operating. It's very important that we do it in a safe

23 manner. For the first time ever we are now regulated  
by 24 independent regulators. It's kind of like me and my  
25 diet. That is self-regulated. That's how the plant  
was

1 regulated for many years.

2           If I gave you the choice to control my diet,  
it  
3 would probably work; however, it hasn't worked well for  
4 me. So that's similar to how we were regulated for  
5 nearly 50 years.

6           Now we are having a change where we have  
7 independent OSHA, EPA, the NRC regulating these  
8 facilities, not necessarily the DOE side, but on the  
9 operational side. It's very important to insure  
10 henceforth that safety is adhered to at a great level,  
11 and that the workers here do know and, I think,  
12 recognize some of the differences today than we've seen  
13 we have seen in the past; however, the future will tell  
14 that story.

15           Again, in recent times there have been  
16 exposures as well as the past. These need to be  
17 eliminated and run safely in the future. So I just  
18 state that.

19           I guess I will give the rest of my time to you  
20 folks that have testimony that the folks here need to  
21 hear, and that's probably as brief as I've ever been.

22           MR. WEINGARD: My name is Steve Weingard. I  
23 started at the plant in 1975, and approximately 1989 I  
24 developed lung cancer. It was my in lymph nodes. The  
25 surgeon that took it out said it was the strangest

1 looking thing he ever saw, didn't think it was cancer,  
2 but when the pathology came back, it was.

3           And I just have -- I could relate a lot of  
4 horror stories, too, but everyone has done a very good  
5 job of that. I have just two questions I would like to  
6 ask the Department of Energy. Number one, when did you  
7 know about the plutonium; and, two, why didn't you tell  
8 us?

9           DR. MICHAELS: My team is investigating this  
10 question, not just from the aspect of Paducah, but  
11 across the whole system. It is my understanding that  
12 the Department of Energy has known since 1953 and 1954  
13 that there was plutonium contamination, not just  
14 plutonium, but neptunium and transuranic contamination  
15 in the reactor feed that came from, was transferred  
from 16 Paducah. Some went here around the complex.

17           The question I can't answer yet is why you  
18 weren't told, and if you were told at all, when you  
were 19 told and how you were told. That's one of the  
things

20 we're looking at. We take that question very  
seriously, 21 and when our investigative team gets here in  
November

22 and we reach out to you, I hope you will help us find  
23 old documents where we try to recreate what exactly 24  
happened at the plant and get that information out to 25

you.



24 workforce here has this ability to perform all the jobs  
25 that we do safely, provided they have the knowledge and

1 the power.

2           Unfortunately, it always been the government  
3 who has had the knowledge and the power. And what have  
4 they chose to do with that? They chose to hide the  
5 knowledge and restrict the power.

6           Anybody who has a comp claim, if you will, at  
7 the facility, generally gets labeled and misused and  
8 abused, and so people tend to not file claims.

9           To give you some view how far DOE is willing  
to  
10 go with controlling this power, if you will, about job  
11 safety, we had an individual injured back in the early  
12 '80s from a scaffolding problem, a VSSR, if you will, a  
13 violation of a specific safety rule in the State of  
14 Ohio. He was entitled to additional compensation that  
15 might reach \$3,000.

16           We had to go all the way to the U.S. Supreme  
17 Court in order to win that. We won at every level.  
The 18 local union paid out \$30,000 in attorneys fees to  
19 collect \$3,000 for one member. I wouldn't hazard a 20  
guess how much DOE paid their attorneys to fight that 21  
claim.

22           This is the kind of restrictions that they  
have  
23 imposed, because their whole basis was they were the

24 sole regulator of health and safety on that facility.  
25 It would be my position if they want to have the

1 knowledge and the power and be the self-regulator as  
the 2 government entity, they certainly ought to take now  
the 3 responsibilities for their actions.

4           It has always been -- and I say I really  
5 appreciate both Senators and the Congressman coming here  
6 today. I have had the privilege, you might say, to  
7 represent this local on numerous occasions having gone  
8 to their house, you might say, in Washington and trying  
9 to explain the inequity of a system that permits the  
10 operator of a facility to also be the regulator, and up  
11 until this time, we haven't had much success in  
changing 12 that role.

13           And, please forgive my skepticism, in recent  
14 years, just in the '90s, if you will, when we were  
again 15 questioning this role and expressing concerns  
about the 16 future of the workers here and their  
livelihoods, all we 17 heard was the balanced budget deal  
and privatization,  
18 and I can tell you, quite frankly, what I was told then  
19 is there's not \$1 to spare for the workers here in  
20 southern Ohio or throughout the industry, if you will,  
21 if it's going to come out of the balanced budget.

22           And I hope, I sincerely hope, that the  
23 attitudes in Washington change and you all do a good  
24 investigation. And I would just make you aware that as

25 the sole regulator at the facility, it's not just

1 plutonium. They have regulated everything out there.  
2 They never wanted to tell us about what was there. It's  
3 been a fact. That's part of the hiding of the  
4 knowledge.

5           In terms of asbestos, when all the rest of the  
6 industries in this country were dumping asbestos out of  
7 their facilities, the DOE acted as a yard-sale  
8 opportunity and bought it in tons and shipped it in  
9 here, and we used it prevalently throughout the  
10 changeout procedures.

11           It was regularly used to protect the workers,  
12 if you will, welders as myself, from the hazards of the  
13 fire and stuff and heat of molten metals we created  
14 cutting out the facility, and individuals actually cut  
15 it in the form of ponchos and put it over their heads  
to 16 protect their coveralls and et cetera from the  
hazards 17 of the hot metals.

18           So, again, I want to leave this to other  
people

19 to give you the horror stories, but I am skeptical  
about 20 your ability to find all the necessary  
documentation,

21 because I think that was a big part of the hiding their  
22 knowledge. You can't prove you have been exposed, you

23 can't prove your claim if there is no such information

24 available to do that.

25               So I thank you.

1           MR. BEEKMAN: Carl Hartley.

2           MR. HARTLEY: I'd like to yield my time.

3           MR. BEEKMAN: Gerold Wilkin.

4           MR. WILKIN: I wanted to thank you all for the  
5 opportunity, especially those individuals that took out  
6 their time to make a good showing for our  
7 representatives that we really care in southern Ohio,  
8 and the intent is from the heart. I hope you guys  
9 realize this.

10           My name is Gerold Wilkin, hired in in '75 as  
a  
11 maintenance mechanic, and it took me about two days to  
12 recognize, after I had my experience in a modern  
13 industry out on the East Coast, that this facility was  
14 far behind what was going on in the real world.

15           And I reckon that became one of my  
motivators,  
16 and probably the best motivator that I had as I  
17 continued my employment here was the type of treatment  
18 that we were receiving, the lack of caring, the lack  
of 19 trying to improve the facility, improve our safety  
and 20 et cetera, while we were doing one of the largest  
21 maneuvers that DOE ever undertook, was to totally  
22 disassemble this facility and put it back together in  
a 23 more modern method to meet the needs of this nation.  
24 And that is exactly what the workers at this facility  
25 did through that disassembly.

1           We are sitting here in the presence of men  
and  
2 women who were willing to sacrifice their lives in the  
3 defense of this nation. We request that you honor  
that 4 dedication in memory of those who are no longer  
with us 5 with the same devotion and dedication and  
enthusiasm  
6 that they gave to this nation while working here at this  
7 site.

8           In doing so during your evaluations of the  
9 conditions that they had to work under, we're asking DOE  
10 one more time to do the right thing. You had numerous  
11 opportunities of being actively involved in the safety  
12 program for the 25 years I have been here.

13           Presently, it's under a grant of DOE, I work  
as  
14 an occupational safety and health education coordinator  
15 on top of doing the jobs at the facility as well, and  
16 that includes the medical surveillance program as well  
17 as training program for hazardous waste clean-up.

18           But what I wanted to tell you is I can go back  
19 as far as my memory serves me at this facility,  
20 including the very first DOE complaint I ever made was  
21 in the year, probably latter part of '76 to '77,  
22 whenever DOE had first taken over, we filed a complaint

23 with over 300 signatures about the conditions at this  
24 facility, specifically asbestos and some of the  
25 exposures we had from the other chemicals.

1           We asked that our names not be used and this  
be  
2   a confidential document, which was supposed to be  
3   provided. The unit at Oak Ridge, which is where we had  
4   to send it, mailed not only that complaint back to your  
5   contract operator, Goodyear at the time, but they also  
6   mailed the names.

7           I think it was in September of '77, which was  
8   the first time I was fired from the facility. We had to  
9   go through arbitration and et cetera to get my job  
10   back. This was specifically over a safety complaint  
11   that I had made and the request for personal  
protection 12   as a respirator for work in the system  
itself.

13           The individual that fired me was a retired  
14   military major. In the Marines he had never had a  
15   person stand toe to toe and nose to nose with him  
ever 16   before in his life and tell him to shove it,  
because I 17   wasn't going to work until I had my  
respirator.

18           But from that time on I paid my dues, and I  
19   probably will continue to pay my dues as well as my  
20   fellow workers have. We gained safety at this facility  
21   by struggling and fighting and never giving up, called

22 it the 3P principle, patience and persistence and the  
23 pencil. We started writing down things. We started 24  
requesting, not only through the operator, but through 25  
DOE that they get actively involved in our facility.

1           It took a strike in '79 to produce one of the  
2 first evaluations. I have this document here. And it  
3 says in this document that we had a serious health and  
4 safety problem at our site that needed to be immediately  
5 dealt with.

6           This document was completed in July of 1980.  
7 It was put out by the General Accounting Office through  
8 Senator Glenn. We literally went to Washington for the  
9 first time in busloads, picketed the DOE, and refused  
to  
10 leave until they sat down and talked with us. That's  
in 11 '79. That's the first time DOE ever talked to its  
12 workers. They always told everybody what to do and  
used 13 the middleman to manipulate that.

14           We asked NIOSH to come in for studies. The  
15 head scientist for NIOSH spent a week with me  
during 16 '79, had set up a program interviewing  
individual  
17 workers, et cetera, on how they were going to do  
the 18 NIOSH study on morbidity or whatever it is. He  
went 19 back to Washington, presented his position.  
He was 20 fired on the spot.

21           We had three more NIOSH studies come in.  
Every

22 person ever assigned to the original NIOSH study was  
23 fired and replaced when they tried to do the study  
they 24 did to the point that they brought in the second  
guy. 25 The second guy was eliminated. Finally, they  
would

1 bring somebody from Chicago or somewhere. Every  
2 individual survey we ever had was done by DOE has said  
3 there is problems.

4           Once again, another strike in 1991 had  
produced 5 the strike over health and safety, another  
study of the 6 health and environmental safety effects  
we had at our

7 facility at our request. This draft was completed in  
8 May 15, 1992. It says the same thing as the draft does  
9 in 1980. Every study in between there said the same  
10 thing to DOE. Every study since then says the same  
11 thing to DOE.

12           My question will be to you, as a worker there  
13 and as a person that's actively been involved in  
health 14 and safety, along with my cohorts, who we've  
all paid 15 the premium price for being activists in this  
realm,

16 when is DOE going to do the right thing? How many  
17 studies are we going to have? How many times do we  
have 18 to tell you there was problems at this facility?  
19 There's some that still exist. We have made  
20 improvements only because the union has pushed them.

21           And anybody that don't think the union is  
good 22 for the nation better take a look at what's  
happened

23 through the history of all industries, not just ours  
24 here at the southern Ohio plant, because if it wasn't  
25 for us, we wouldn't have been the cleanest DOE site in

1 the entire United States. We wouldn't have been the  
2 best safety records throughout the entire United  
3 States. I give every bit of that credit to the union.  
4 None of it goes to DOE, who received awards, and none  
of 5 it should go to the contract operators that also  
6 received those awards. It was the workers at this  
plant

7 that deserves that credit.

8           The one thing we've always told them -- and  
9 they won't listen, they won't understand -- protect the  
10 worker from the chemicals and the exposures and the  
11 hazards at the facility. You have been protecting the  
12 environment and the community around it. It starts  
with 13 the protection of the worker, and that's where we  
have 14 failed, and as the gentleman said before us, you  
think 15 we contaminated this ground and this air and et  
cetera 16 on that plant site and these buildings and this  
17 equipment without exposing workers to all those  
combined 18 mixed hazards, not just one chemical, but  
many  
19 chemicals, and all of them were probably radioactive,  
20 and we went into the mixed stuff that we don't know  
the 21 effects on the human beings. No one knows what  
they  
22 are.

23                   That's all I have to say, and thank you for  
24 your time.  
25                   MR. BEEKMAN: We have at this point, we have  
30

1 people that we have had speak. Our time is running  
2 short. I want to reiterate to everybody who wanted a  
3 turn to testify will be contacted by DOE. We will make  
4 sure it's turned in.

5 If your name is called and you feel that what  
6 you are saying is basically redundant, if you want to  
7 share your time, that's fine. If you want to speak,  
8 that's also fine. We want to make sure. We are  
going 9 to try to go a little longer, 12:30, as long as  
we can

10 go. There is a half hour longer so we can get the  
11 people in.

12 Again, on the procedure, if you happen not  
to  
13 get to speak today, you will get to speak to the team  
14 when they come here in November because your names  
are 15 on the list. The 800 number is 1-877-447-9756.

16 Next speaker is Susie Ramsey.

17 MS. RAMSEY: Gentlemen, I'd like for you to  
18 know that I've worked in the county as a home-health  
19 nurse. I'm presently a home-health nurse. I have  
20 witnessed not only the workers in my care as they  
have 21 gone through different illnesses in this county,  
but 22 also the people that live in and around this

plant.

23                    I'm a resident of Piketon. My children have  
24 gone to school here. We have noticed things in the  
25 county in certain areas that have cancers, certain  
areas

1 where there has been mental loss. Doctors call this  
2 sinus and respiratory valley. We have mental  
3 retardations. We have birth defects.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BEEKMAN: John Gahm.

6 MR. GAHM: Thank you for coming today. I  
will

7 try to be brief. I know you guys have a lot on your  
8 minds. I already had the opportunity to speak with  
9 Dr. Michaels once. Some more views from last night  
I'll 10 just present them to you in writing, and I'll get  
a copy 11 to all the rest of you also.

12 I just want to confirm the story of Jeff  
13 Walburn. We have been through this since 1994, and  
14 that's when I started, and it's still not really over.  
15 We would like confirmation in this to come from you  
16 people. You have heard us, please, again, do the right  
17 thing.

18 It's pretty hard to top everything that I  
19 already heard here, and I'm sure a lot of other people  
20 need to speak, and I have other members out here that  
21 will contact you through the 1-800 number.

22 There's a 41-page document out there that you  
23 need to have, POEF 150 96 0088, dated February 16,

24 1996. I can't get it. I think you can.  
25 DR. MICHAELS: What is it? Help us identify

1 it.

2 MR. GAHM: It's an investigation into the  
3 Walburn incident.

4 DR. MICHAELS: By who?

5 MR. GAHM: By the contractor.

6 DR. MICHAELS: It's a plant letter?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's a plant letter.

8 DR. MICHAELS: You have my commitment to  
follow

9 up on not just the document, but the case.

10 MR. GAHM: That's an important document.

11 MR. WALBURN: That document needs to be made  
12 public because it gives evidence of a gaping hole in a  
13 back-door system into our records that can come and go.

14 MR. STRICKLAND: Jeff, have you made efforts  
to

15 secure that document yourself?

16 MR. WALBURN: My lawyer may have, but I signed  
17 to see the contract between the operator on a gag  
order, 18 and somehow someone slipped this to me, and we'd  
asked 19 for it, and they kept -- they said, there's no  
problems 20 with the dosimetry. We have letters to that  
effect.

21 And Tom Douglas was the president of the  
union

22 at the time. He said, "Well, hell, I'm no policeman.

23 Just black out the parts that we don't need to see  
24 that's personal. Give us the part that affects our 25  
man."

1               So they said they would, and then Sandy  
Fouts,

2    who it was, she's the one who told us no problems with  
3    the dosimetry. Then she comes back, "No. No, let's  
4    form a committee. Let's form a committee on Dosimetry  
5    there's no problems here."

6               And then when they slipped it to me in  
7    discovery, here's this, blacked-out, pages missing. I  
8    couldn't tell you what all it says, but that document is  
9    key.

10              DR. MICHAELS: One question, you said the  
11    contractor, you mean Bectel Jacobs?

12              MR. WALBURN: Lockheed Martin, 1994.

13              SENATOR DEWINE: We will work on getting that  
14    because that is a USEC document.

15              MR. GAHM: It's in 1996, is when the  
16    investigation was formed.

17              SENATOR DEWINE: I will ask for it.

18              MR. GAHM: It's important to know we don't  
19    normally stand up in the public arena, as the security  
20    interests, we don't do that, but this issue is  
important 21   to us, and we feel our membership needs to do  
this.

22    People in security don't normally come to public  
23    meetings and bare their sole. I'm sure everybody here  
24    understands that and knows the reasons why, because we

25 are security.

1           But yet we are affected by this thing, too.

We

2   have been side by side with the union and every  
3   operation they've done. We have been in every building,  
4   every room, and every rooftop, and we were told it was  
5   clean. In fact, I find out that it wasn't.

6           So I'm going to yield the rest of my time  
7   because I know there's people out here that need to  
8   speak also.

9           Thank you.

10          PACE REPRESENTATIVE: Hello. I am currently  
11   the state of health representative for the PACE Local  
12   6589. I'm actually a second-generation worker on this  
13   site. I really have more of a statement than an  
14   expectation.

15          Recently we had -- well, one thing the NIOSH,  
16   National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health,  
17   office out of Cincinnati has been very helpful with  
18   us. 18 They actually have been friends, using our  
19   applicable

20   knowledge to the plant site and their technical  
21   knowledge of the science and chemistry have actually  
22   found gaping holes in the dosimetry program, and that  
23   includes the urinalysis programs, the TLD batch

program, 23 some of these other things that I know been  
identified 24 in documents.  
25 The problems, the things that really kind of

1 concerns us, is with this open technical, professional  
2 relationship with this organization, to go back and  
try 3 to confirm and identify some data that we have had  
or

4 are missing and trying in our efforts to reconstruct  
5 some of this data to see if it has had any indication  
of 6 health effects on our workers, we have -- there's  
really 7 a concern because recently there was influences  
for

8 NIOSH to go against their public policy and put out a  
9 summary letter of their mortality study that's been  
10 ongoing at our plant site.

11 That letter that was put out, as I said,  
that's 12 no big deal. I know policies change all the  
time. The 13 biggest issue there is some of the -- a page  
of that

14 letter was omitted by some influences outside of the  
15 Cincinnati office.

16 The letter, the part of the letter that was  
17 omitted, was actually the criteria that establishes  
and 18 identifies the limitations of their study. It  
actually 19 states, we really don't know what's going  
on because

20 there are so many holes in the study and data, and  
that 21 data was collected by the contractor. And the

22 contractor, depends on what the contractor had  
written 23 down or identified or what they monitored  
for. It  
24 affects your epidemiological studies. You know  
that. 25 It doesn't take a scientist to figure that  
one out.

98 1 I need to -- I'm not going to ask anything.

2 I'm going to basically establish an expectation. We  
3 expect our government and we expect the Department  
of 4 Energy to overcome these influences that  
eliminate

5 certain parts of letters that actually describe the  
6 limitations to these studies. That's the only way we  
7 are going to find if there is any harm or any cause  
to 8 any exposures our workers have had.

9 We need to do this, and I'm tired of our  
10 exposures being minimized and certain little games  
going 11 on here, which actually I don't think it's a  
nefarious 12 plot. I think it's you got individuals in  
our

13 government and our Department of Energy that are  
14 covering their rear ends, and that's best all I need  
to 15 say.

16 MR. BEEKMAN: Dr. Velma Shearer.

17 DR. SHEARER: I want to thank you for the  
18 letter of invitation that came to me just recently, so  
19 I'm not prepared to speak because of the shortness of  
20 time, but I'm glad to have gotten it. I am glad to be  
21 here.

22 I do want to let you know that I represent a

23 religious community, and I want you to know that we

are

24 concerned about your problems and just pains me  
terribly 25 to hear your stories. They're deeper and  
more extensive

1 than I had originally thought.

2 I do know that there are health physicists  
and  
3 nuclear physicists that are available to the community  
4 to give you more detailed information about radiation  
5 and effects and the synergy of the radiation and the  
6 other chemicals which are used on site.

7 I think I am concerned about the moral absence  
8 that's evident in the willingness throughout history  
for 9 the corporation and the government to sacrifice  
health  
10 and lives. I'm deeply concerned about that, but it is  
a 11 beginning point right now to redo this error. Let's  
12 begin, and let's take all of this into consideration,  
13 and we can move forward with a better process.

14 Included in that is the destruction of  
records  
15 and so on, let's get something on paper, and let's get  
16 it accurate.

17 So I think that I'll say again, the religious  
18 community is concerned. We are your friends, and if  
19 there is any way we can help with working with  
20 communities with the Health Department and so on, we 21  
will be glad to do that as best we can. Thank you. 22

MR. BEEKMAN: David Parrish.

23 MR. PARRISH: I'll yield my time.

24 MR. BEEKMAN: Adel Wolfe.

25 MR. WOLFE: I wasn't really planning on

1 speaking at this meeting or anything, but they asked me  
2 to sign a little card out to say something, but I  
could. 3 I

come worked in the plant for 22 years. I  
4 worked in the laundry where I started at. We started in  
5 the laundry out there. We took gloves in that was  
6 Teflon gloves. We run them through the washer. Then we  
7 take and they would have a health physicist come over  
8 and monitor, but they never monitored inside of them.  
9 They always monitored the outside as we dried them on  
10 the drying rack.

11 Many of the chemical operators used them  
gloves  
12 over and over and over, and there were a lot of them  
13 brought the gloves back and took them off, and their  
14 hands were hot. I worked with the workers. We put the  
15 gloves in the washer. We pulled them out. It was  
three 16 days getting his hands down from contaminates.

17 That time most of us didn't ever really report  
18 some things because, well, we was afraid to,  
19 incrimination, intimidation, that you get punished. A  
20 lot of these people here knows what I'm talking about.

21 Right today there are many people at that  
plant  
22 are scared of this meeting because intimidation. We

23 will close her down. We'll close the doors. We will  
24 close this building or shut this part down or shut  
that 25 part down. Intimidation is what holds a lot of  
them in

101 1 line from not saying nothing, from not going to  
the

2 hospital from not doing certain things.

3 We went from no rules a lot of times years  
ago

4 to now we got too many regulations. And rules and  
5 regulations that's being brought down today is going to  
6 take and shut the plant down almost because you can't  
7 get your work done. You sit there two days trying to  
8 get to one job that should be done that day, because as  
9 long as that's open, the longer the more contaminates  
10 you get out, and things like that happens because of  
11 rules.

12 I'm not saying education and stuff don't help  
13 knowing the product. I do say that it helps, but when  
14 you go to class and you come out of there and you go  
15 over and start to use what you learned in that class,  
16 and they say, "Well, bypass that," that's been done  
many 17 a times.

18 I worked in janitors. We cleaned up PCBs out  
19 of the pits. They'd say this pit's got PCBs This pit  
20 hasn't. They all were contaminated with PCBs in this 21  
building. They said it wasn't, but later on every one 22  
of the tanks they put signs on.

23                   Today they won't let the janitors do one-third  
24 of what they did years ago. We went into cell houses,  
25 swept the cell houses. They tore that stuff out, and

1 lot of time that wasn't roped up. Sometimes they was.

2 I mean, there's a lot of things that have  
3 changed for the better. I'm not granting you it ain't,  
4 but there's a lot of times that's worse.

5 So I don't know what to tell you about  
6 everything, but I do know that when we retire, I'm a  
7 retiree now, and our insurance, it's pretty fairly good.  
8 You have little problems with insurance anytime, but  
9 when we get a certain age, when we get up going, then  
10 we're turned over to Medicaid and Medicare on part of  
11 that.

12 That should never have been done. It was  
not

13 passed towards a company like ours to go on to that  
kind 14 of stuff. I know the federal government pays,  
but it

15 was not set up for companies and government to go on  
to 16 Medicaid when we had a pension plant and a medical  
plan 17 that we could have had.

18 Goodyear give us a medical plan for our  
whole

19 life. This company came in and took half of it away  
as 20 soon as they could. They didn't give us no choice  
to 21 what medical plan you have. They said, here, you

take 22 this, and now they're giving you two choices,  
and none 23 of them, either one of them, is not the  
best.

24                   That's about all I got to say.

25                   MR. BEEKMAN: Homer Knight.

103 1

MR. KNIGHT: I'm not very good at this. Two  
2 things little minor things been noted by some  
earlier, 3 and we need a bigger place.

4 I'm wanting to know the neptunium, I have  
heard

5 it mentioned a couple times in the papers I read I had  
a 6 few years ago. Never followed up, nothing on it. I  
7 didn't get it here. This went on for three or four  
8 months, and a buddy of mine, I can't think of his name,  
9 his sister worked up at Ohio State in the lab or  
10 someplace. He said, sure, you got a good library over  
11 there. Go check it out.

12 She goes in there, and probably two or three  
13 months after that, they found it up in area control  
14 one. And from then on I've never heard anything more  
15 about it.

16 Second, I'd like to ask the doctor about PCB  
17 oil. I was told to wash it off. I put gallons off  
of 18 it, and after about three or four years all of the  
19 sudden, it's no good for liver and everything else.

20 Unfortunately, I don't think I've got  
anything

21 wrong with me, but that ain't saying I might. I have  
22 never had a follow-up or nothing on anything. That's  
23 about it for me either. There's other people that

got 24 more problems than I, but I wanted to mention those two 25 things. I don't believe I've been hurt too much.

104 1

That oil that used to be in the transformers,

2 we had to pump all that out. Well, I think when we  
3 first started there, I got in on about three-quarters  
4 that they put back in, and all of the sudden they  
5 changed to a new type. So I pumped that for years.

6 And like I said, fortunately, it's before I  
7 knowed, which I never had other than just going to the  
8 doctor for cold and stuff, which I did the other day  
and 9 still got a plugged ear. That's about all. But I  
don't

10 know what's going on inside of me. Nobody's ever  
called 11 me back for nothing.

12 There were three of us at the time. Like I  
13 said, there was never no follow-up. So I'm going to 14  
turn it over to somebody that's got problems, but I  
15 wanted to find out something about it. I'd sure like  
to 16 know if I could go through some of that and find  
out. 17 Hopefully I don't find out anything's the matter  
with

18 me, but I'd like to know. I hope I got a few more  
miles 19 on me. I'm retired.

20 I sure thank you all for coming, but please  
get

21 a little bigger place. I got my letter yesterday about  
22 3:30, and I would have been in Virginia this weekend,  
23 but I couldn't leave the bathroom the day before 24  
yesterday.

25 MR. BEEKMAN: Wilbert Bowman.

105 1

MR. BOWMAN: I will pass.

2 MR. BEEKMAN: Marvin Sloan.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. BEEKMAN: Robert L. Wood, Senior.

5 MR. WOOD: Thank you very much. I

appreciate

6 you all being here today. Currently I work with the  
7 training department. I started here in 1974, almost  
8 directly out of high school as an apprentice  
9 electrician.

10 In 1983 I decided to check out the grass on  
the

11 other side of the fence and left and went to the  
nuclear 12 power industry. When I first went there, I got  
angry at 13 this place, and the reason was here at this  
plant they 14 taught us through our apprenticeship how to  
clean the

15 material off of us if you got contaminated. They  
said, 16 "Fellows, monitor yourself. Please monitor  
yourself. 17 Please don't smoke in contaminated areas.  
Please don't 18 chew tobacco in areas like that."

19 I go to the nuclear power industry, and they  
20 don't even want me to get it on me. Now, I know the 21  
Department of Defense had better ways of contamination 22

control -- I'm getting nervous -- because coworkers I 23  
had told me in 1971 they used the canary suits you see  
24 on TV and go through all the contamination controls.  
We 25 were never taught that, and I did not learn that  
until I

1 went to the nuclear power industry in '83.

2           So it was a pleasant surprise when I came back  
3 in '91, because this is home, and I care about this  
4 plant. I want our plant to run. I want our power plant  
5 to get its enriched uranium from American workers, not  
6 foreign countries.

7           So I care a whole lot about this place. I  
8 don't want it to shut down, but my plea is, we're  
trying 9 to do the best we can out there. I'm pleased  
with some  
10 of the controls we are having. The plea that I have is  
11 even though I have minor health things now that may or  
12 may not be related to what I was exposed to here  
through 13 PCBs, through the oxide recovery area, through  
PW and  
14 all the different areas, because as an apprentice I  
15 worked everywhere, that as folks have problems, if we  
16 have problems, medical, that you please take care of  
us. 17

That's all I have to say.

18           MR. BEEKMAN: Mark Lewis.

19           MR. LEWIS: My name is Mark Lewis. I was  
20 tickled to death when I got out of the Navy, got a real  
21 good job. I thought, boy, I have it made now. Really

I 22 do, you know. We are pretty lucky here.

23           The thing I'd like to bring up, I started out  
24 here, I worked in the Fire Department for years. Now,  
25 we all know about HazMat teams that they have now

1 together. You say HazMat back then, they say HazMat  
2 what? What do you mean?

3           You talk about decontamination line, it was  
not

4 set up, so you have this stuff gets loose, you hear the  
5 horror stories. The stuff gets out of the system, all  
6 you see is rear ends and elbows going the other way, and  
7 we're going in to fix it, okay.

8           So we're wearing these suits they think are  
9 pretty well safe; found out later there permeated all  
10 the way through, you know, and were no good. We got  
new 11 suits out of the deal.

12           But the thing that got me was there was no way  
13 to have any kind of control of contamination. When you  
14 need to start working in an area, and you're trying to  
15 tape up the system with an onion sack and dry ice  
16 pellets and masking tape to freeze this thing out  
17 because it's hot and you want to make it cold so it  
quit 18 leaking.

19           You get your air bag, your air sack and you  
get

20 your fresh air you have on your back, you go outside.

21 What happened to me, I ran out of air in 1975, 21  
years 22 old, first time I seen a release. I went in and

said, 23 "Something's on fire." You know, I didn't know.

I

24 couldn't see a hand in front of my face. No one told  
25 me. They said, "Go get 'em, kid." I had been in the

108 1 fire department about two weeks.

2           So I go in. I had this onion sack, dry ice  
3 pellets, taping up this line, my air runs out. My  
4 bell's is going off. So I go back outside. The guy  
5 sitting up there on the fire station, and I just walked  
6 out because my bell is ringing. Unzip my suit,  
7 unbeknownst to me when I bent over doing this on this  
8 line, all this condensation and everything, all these  
9 small particles landed on top of head and on my  
suit, 10 an old Acid King suit, you guys are familiar  
with.

11           The guys walks up. He's smaller than me,  
12 reaches up, pulls down my zipper on my suit like  
this, 13 pulls it, opens it up to change my air bottle.  
My air 14 bottle is changed. He zips the suit back up.  
I take 15 about ten steps and my head is on fire.

16           What happened, that stuff sitting on top of  
my  
17 head when he unzipped that suit, we had no  
procedures, 18 and it fell over all over me. I had  
hair then.

19           Anyway, the thing that got me, you know, I  
20 turn around. I walk back out. You know, this is  
21 high-assay stuff. This was 98 percent stuff. This

was 22 98 percent and visible on my head. The gentleman  
talked 23 about his skin falling off. Mine fell off.

Years went 24 by, you know, went back out.

25 They said go ahead and go to the hospital,

109 1 decontaminate yourself, you know, whatever.  
Before I 2 go, the wind changes direction. Could you  
move this  
3 fire truck? Serious. I get in and move the fire truck  
4 and drive myself to the plant hospital, the aide  
5 station.  
6           Get over there, and I'm scrubbed, and they  
7 stick things up my nose that drive me crazy. This  
stuff 8 made me the workers' health protection  
coordinator right 9 now. This has been a motivator to  
me, made me an  
10 activist, current worker activist. I'll admit that  
11 openly. You guys probably know that. But I knew right  
12 then something needed to be done, a while back.  
13           I got sick later on. I said, "Well, I'll go  
14 back and get my medical records," and guess what?  
15 There's nothing in my medical records about that day.  
16 Nothing. It's expunged. The only way I can go back  
is 17 to talk to people that was there. There was  
nothing  
18 there. It was like I was healthy as a horse that  
year. 19  
So that fired me up to get me into this, and  
20 later on the opportunity came up to work as an

21 occupational health and safety education coordinator  
for 22 the local union and international union. I got

onto

23 that and got on the Ohio State HazMat team. I went  
to 24 college to learn more about the HazMat specialist,  
and I 25 came back and effected some changes at work. I  
got our

110

1 suits changed.

2               It wasn't easy. I worked with Buzzard and a

3 lot if people. It wasn't easy. We got our monitors

and

4 started logging suits in and helping it get better,

the

5 way it is now. I know working conditions are better

6 now, but I can't think of the number of releases we

have

7 been in and had inadequate procedures for

8 decontaminating ourselves, the fire department.

9               With that said, I'd like to talk about the

10 Health Protection Program. The people that called

up, I 11 want to thank you. We got 300 people. This is

the 3162 12 section of the Energy Bill provides for

monitoring the 13 current and former workers. Well,

we're doing the

14 former works now, but don't forget this bill also

says 15 for current workers.

16               And I plead for you to keep the monies

coming

17 in, because this thing is just starting. We need,

18 especially if we go to the current workers, the

people, 19 we have about 20 or so applied, and we  
definitely would 20 like to have more current workers  
get in the program. 21 So I'd like for you to keep that  
in mind, and we have  
22 had 300 people call so far to schedule appointments.  
We 23 have done screening a Pike County Hospital and the  
24 Southern Medical Center, and expect a lot more. And  
I 25 want to thank you.

111 1

You guys that want to call for that health

2 screening, my name is Mark Lewis, and call the local  
3 hall or get ahold of me and/or Sam Ray and Roy Carrier.

4 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

5 MR. BEEKMAN: Donald Boggs.

6 MR. BOGGS: I am Don Boggs. I was a welder at  
7 the plant for 26 years. I have -- just tell some  
things 8 I've seen. I have seen PT on the floor in piles  
that

9 was chem ops, and the janitors worked one time, but this  
10 stuff, we walked in, and this was back in the '70s  
11 before the real regulations starting coming down. I  
12 have seen that.

13 I can remember when technetium and the  
14 transuranic metals came into the plant. A coworker  
and 15 myself seen some stuff running out the end of an  
16 eight-inch control valve, and we found out later that  
17 this was technetium. That was the first time we saw  
18 this animal.

19 But from that point on, on the transuranic  
20 metals, maybe the doctor can give me some information.  
21 Does a transuranic metal work in the bone? Do they  
22 work, say, in your back? Will they settle in your

back 23 and give you back trouble? Because I know that  
every 24 welder nearly to the man out at the plant when I  
was  
25 working there had back trouble.

mean, this trouble didn't come from no great  
2 strain or anything. It would just be you just come up  
3 with back trouble, and you have deteriorating of the  
4 disk.

5 But, anyway, another thing that happened to  
me

6 was one day the foreman came to me and said, "Don, I  
7 have a little job for you in 26 building." He said,  
8 "Something happened over there and we got to take out a  
9 stage."

10 So over I go. I said, "Well, what's the  
11 problem?" I said, "What's going on?"

12 "Well," he said, "they really don't know. You  
13 just got to take this stage out because they lost  
14 product."

15 So over I went and come to find out there was  
16 an oil instrument line and an oil line got together  
with 17 a hose in and pulled a stage full of oil and lost  
18 product in it.

19 There was -- this was a documented situation.  
20 When I got to the cell, I noticed that they had a few  
21 monitoring devices around. But I still wasn't told  
they 22 were scared the thing was going to go critical,  
because 23 I have some pictures of this I picked up from

the union. 24 I never have been able to find them.  
25 This cell was full of product, and it showed  
in

113 1 the pictures of an eight-inch pipe and it was  
right up 2 almost to the top of it where this product  
was at. And 3 still I didn't know what I was into. I  
was rolling  
4 around on these pipes, arcing them out, the air out so  
5 they could lift the equipment out.

6 And I have racked my brain to try to think,  
but

7 I don't think that I had a dosimeter on through this  
8 whole thing. There is no -- I have no records of  
9 anything on me even being in that on my records or  
10 anything.

11 But they were scared at that time that this  
12 thing was going to go critical, and I don't know that  
it 13 didn't. But I was never told until I found out  
exactly 14 what the story was.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BEEKMAN: Virgil  
Pemberton.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. BEEKMAN: Fred Carpenter.

19 Mr. CARPENTER: I'll reserve.

20 MR. BEEKMAN: Gary McCann.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. BEEKMAN: Willard Brane.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. BEEKMAN: Mike Castle.

25 (No response.)

114 1

MR. BEEKMAN: Terry Adams.

2                   MR. ADAMS: I'm totally astounded at what I'm  
3   hearing here today even though I knew this was going  
on 4   for years. I came to Goodyear Atomic from Oak  
Ridge

5   Tennessee plant in 1975, and I started in engineering as  
6   a section head in civil engineering.

7                   One day I got a call from the assistant plant  
8   manager, and he said, "Come over here." Well, what do  
9   you say? You go over there.

10                  And he said, "We have no quality assurance  
11   program here."

12                  And I said, "Well, thank you very much. I  
know

13   you are interviewing a lot people for this job."

14                  He said, "No, I'm not. You're it. You start  
15   Monday."

16                  I said, "Okay. Can I have until Monday to get  
17   my other work cleared up?"

18                  He said, "Yes, but if you're not, get over  
here  
19   anyway."

20                  That man had a sterling quality. He later  
left

21 the plant.

22           We did not have a quality assurance program of  
23 any kind at that time. What I had inherited was a  
24 little notebook about this thick, a small notebook, and  
25 we started in on the plant investigation of all the

1 areas, and I think we did a good job, but we found a lot  
2 of the things we didn't like.

3 Later on I was tapped for the Safety Analysis  
4 Department. Now, it's different from regular safety,  
5 like safety on vehicles and stuff. This was to  
6 investigate all the areas of the plant, one by one, to  
7 see where we had problems, and there was no Safety  
8 Analysis Program. It was not started until 1979.

9 I estimated it would cost \$70,000 to produce  
10 one report. That's a lot of money. Well, I produced  
11 the lot of reports, but the first audit we got by DOE  
12 was from David Chevy and Wally Johnson from Oak Ridge,  
13 and David and Wally came up, and they said, "What do  
you 14 got to show us?"

15 We showed 15 reports we had done in the past  
16 year, and we had some hair-raising reports, but at  
least 17 we found out what we needed to do.

18 They said, "Frankly, we came here to give you  
19 an unsatisfactory rating again." That's what we had  
20 when I started, because there was no documentation at  
21 all.

22 So we went through that, and we had meetings  
at  
23 Oak Ridge and Paducah, and we all worked very well

24 together. We learned a lot of the things.  
25 Well, what are some of these things that we

1 learned? We learned there was 187,000 barrels of  
2 lithium hydroxide stored on the plant site that came  
3 from somewhere else. The buildings were all leaking.  
4 They were stored in fiber drums stacked three high. The  
5 roofs had leaks in them.

6           We're not the great discoverer like Columbus.  
7 We just found those barrels and said, "What is this  
8 happening here?" These barrels are all falling apart  
9 because there's water coming through the roof. There's  
10 water coming through the doors. This stuff is leaking  
11 out into the drainage system. It's going down the  
12 Scioto River.

13           Later that was all repackaged. That was one  
14 of  
15 the results of a Safety Analysis Program. Later we  
16 wrote a report that said there was danger of an  
17 explosion inside the purge area. And we got pooh-  
18 poohed for it, not by the DOE, because DOE jumped right  
19 on it. 20 But by the time DOE got the message, the site  
21 was  
22 almost -- we forecast the China syndrome you heard  
23 about. we had the purge site explosion. It blew  
24 several hundred feet out the side of one of the  
25 buildings.

23                    We also went into the 342 building where the  
24 man talked about all the smoke he got lost in. Guess  
25 what? There were three DOE inspectors on the plant  
site

117

1 that day. They were given canisters by the operator,  
2 Goodyear Atomic, to go in and look at it while they  
were

3 here on the spot.

4 One of the canisters didn't have anything in  
5 it, and one of the masks didn't have anything in it.

6 The man went there and got overcome, and they  
7 life-flighted him back to Oak Ridge.

8 The other two had the wrong canisters in  
them.

9 They life-flighted all of them back to Oak Ridge. We  
10 went on with things like this, and we just went  
through 11 every area.

12 And I heard a man talk about awhile ago he  
went

13 to Dr. Ponce de Leon and had something removed from  
his 14 intestine that was cancerous. I had the same  
doctor,

15 and down in engineering, how am I getting that stuff?  
16 Well, we were all over the plant. We were everywhere,  
17 and then we got exposed.

18 A friend of mine in our group, Rob Oxinham,  
got

19 cancer, a sterling guy. I heard about him. I went to  
20 talk to him. I said, "Rob, what happened? How did we  
21 get contaminated?"

22 He said, "I don't know," but he said, "I went  
23 to the bathroom one morning and everything tore loose  
in 24 me," and he said, "The bathroom was covered with  
blood." 25

And I said, "How are you doing now?"

said, "I'm going to die." And he died.

2 Bill Hawk, worked in the 705 building. We  
all

3 got cancer. We went to see Bill, Lou Miller and I. I  
4 said, "Lou, you got to be ready. That man is going to  
5 either be emaciated, or he's going to be as big as a  
6 balloon."

7 He was as big as a balloon, was taking 70  
8 different kinds of medicine. He showed us a trayful of  
9 it.

10 And I said, "What's the prognosis, Bill?"

11 He said, "I'm going to die in March."

12 "Say that again, Bill?"

13 "I'm going to die in March, guys. There's no  
14 use beating around the bush about this."

15 But a friend that worked with me, he's a  
basket

16 case. He's not handling this at all. So Bill died.

I 17 could go on and on, Henry McCallum, Gus Pelfrey,  
John 18 Carr, on and on. You have heard enough horror  
stories 19 today.

20 I don't want to throw credentials around. I  
am

21 a graduate engineer. I also have a degree in business.  
22 I know what goes on in business. I know what it coast  
23 to do business. So does everyone in this room. They  
24 are told about it all the time.  
25 From 1979 to 1984 we covered every spot in the

1 plant site, and I guess we were getting so close to  
2 getting people upset, that in 1984 they said, "You guys  
3 are disbanded. You guys are disbanded."

4           Everybody knows the story of Fernold down in  
5 Cincinnati. Some of the guys got contaminated down  
6 there. Well, they sent me back to engineering. I got  
7 demoted two ranks because I was getting too close to  
8 some people's nerves.

9           Later on I filed a claim with the DOE showing  
I  
10 discriminated against because just that I told the  
11 truth. So I got demoted. So the end of that was -- I  
12 heard the name Sandy Fouts mentioned awhile back.  
Sandy 13 got me transferred to the maintenance department.

My

14 career was over. But I hung on.

15           Later on as I became 70 and 70-1/2, when I  
16 became 70 years old, I learned about that it was a  
17 system where you could pick up some of your  
retirement 18 and continue to work, and I inquired about  
that. What 19 happened was I was so popular with those  
people, what

20 happened was when I became 70-1/2, those payments  
didn't 21 start. They've never started.

22           I'm not up here to beg for money that I

didn't

23 deserve. I'm not up here at all. Keep it. Keep it.

24 But what they did do, they cancelled my wife's  
25 insurance. She has cancer. We went to get some  
tests

120 1 run.

2               They said, "Mr. Adams, you need \$475 up  
3 front."

4               And I said, "I have Connecticut General  
5 insurance."

6               "No, you don't. We can show you the papers.  
7 Your insurance was cancelled."

8               See, when I became eligible, it was December  
9 31, 1996. I'm now 73 years old. When I became  
10 eligible, they brought me in papers to sign that said  
11 date of termination, 12-31-96, date of retirement,  
12 1-31-96. If you don't sign these, you don't get the 13  
70-1/2 money. I said, "You got to keep the money, 14  
because I can't retire."

15              I took the papers back and told them. Now they  
16 are accusing me of fabricating the papers. They gave me  
17 the papers. See, this is what disturbs me, just this  
18 whole mess here today. They don't address the  
19 situation. They lie about it. They cover it up.

20              I'm going to cut this short, because I could  
21 sit here and tell you a myriad of stories from my  
safety 22 analysis working with Oak Ridge and working  
with

23 Paducah. I need to cut it short, but I could sit here  
24 and keep you amazed for the next two years.

25                    But just before I left there was  
contamination

121 1 coming out of the process building. When we  
examined

2 that, it was going down through the floor drains on the  
3 operating floor out into the ditches, out into the  
4 Scioto River, and I was taking steps to cover up those  
5 holes. John Shoemaker knows all about this. He works  
6 over in the other place for USEC now. He knew about  
it. 7

So

I said, when I started to really retire, I

8 said, "I would like to stay on." And I'm not waving  
the 9 flag here, gentleman. I had went to the plant  
manager,

10 and because I had been turned -- I told the engineering  
11 manager, "I'd like stay on here, close up these holes,"  
12 where these things had been deliberately removed by  
13 somebody to wash this stuff down the drains.

14 The engineering management said no. I took it  
15 to the manager, Morris Brown. I said, "Mr. Brown, I  
16 want to make you deal." Like Humphry Bogart, "I will  
17 make you a deal you can't refuse. I want to stay here  
18 and finish this work. It will take till March or  
19 sometime short, maybe February."

20 He said. "have you talked to your  
management?"

21                I said, "Yes, I have, and that's why I'm  
here."

22                He said, "Well, don't tell me they said no."

23                I said, "Yeah, they said no, and I offered to  
24 stay at no charge."

25                I was going to stay there because to my

1 knowledge that work may never have been finished, but it  
2 should be.

3           Also during that time I investigated the  
4 buildings for structural integrity. I have found out  
5 that we had condensers and compressors stored on the  
6 operating floors of the buildings in spaces where you 7  
shouldn't have had one and they had two.

8           I don't know if you have any idea how much  
9 those things weigh, but I worked out a plan where you  
10 could put them on shores and put them over the beams.  
11 I'm a civil engineer by graduation. Anyway, by the  
way, 12 I am licensed in 22 states. I'm not blowing my  
own horn 13 here, but California and everywhere else.

14           But let me tell you something, I don't think  
15 that work was ever done, and all they had to do was put  
16 shores under there, transfer these loads into the  
beams, 17 and there was always a danger of punching  
through down 18 through the slab, and you had people  
sitting right  
19 under.

20           But when I would talk about that, they would  
21 say, "Look at the footprint." It got to be a joke. 22  
People chided me, but they were laughing not at me; 23  
they were laughing how stupid my supervisors were  
24 saying, "Look at the footprint." You don't look at just

25 a piece of paper. If you don't have something under it,

1 it's going to punch right through. That's the way civil  
2 engineering is. That why you hear about bridge  
3 collapse.

4 I'm going to stop now because there's a  
5 multitude of other stories. I will say one other thing.  
6 Senator Voinovich said, What about this contamination  
7 that's carried other places?

8 Jim Parker worked at ACR3. Always Jim prided  
9 himself on dressing, so he wore these shoes. He had  
10 these beautiful shoes and these beautiful clothes, and I  
11 said, "Jim, why do you wear your dress shoes in those  
12 contaminated areas?"

13 He said, "There's no problem. They said  
14 there's no problems." This man is an engineer, too. 15  
Sometime after that in the next year he  
16 transferred to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to a steam  
17 plant. All of the sudden the Chattanooga steam plant  
by 18 TVA became contaminated with radiation contamination  
on 19 their operating floor. They said, "Wait a minute.  
Wait 20 a minute. Our safety plan has gone to hell here."

21 And somebody was smart. It was right after,  
he

22 said, "Who have we hired this last two or three  
months?" 23 Jim Parker and a man from the Goodrich plant

in Aikin, 24 South Carolina. Guess what? Both of them  
had their  
25 shoes completely loaded with uranium contamination.  
They

1 confiscated the shoes.

2           Goodyear said, "We don't believe it."

3           They said, "We will give you the shoes and you  
4 can check them."

5           They brought the shoes back. They were  
6 contaminated.

7           See, the thing is, everybody makes mistakes.

I

8 made a couple in my whole lifetime. Listen, fellows, I  
9 was a Navy flyer in World War II. All of you know what  
10 happened with the Lexington. It got sunk. It wasn't  
my 11 fault. See, that's what everybody says. It's not  
my

12 fault.

13           When we left the Lexington, we came back here,  
14 and we was laying over for the Hornet, and the Japanese  
15 got to that. And we went over to the Yorktown, and a  
16 month later the Yorktown went down. We sent over to  
the 17 Enterprise. Thank God the Enterprise went into 18  
18 battles without an incident.

19           But I never felt so betrayed as I was by  
people

20 by me trying to be Mr. -- how do you say it -- Good  
Guy, 21 and say, "Hey, these people out here need

protection." 22 And what did I get for it? Retribution,  
retaliation.

23 And when I filed an EEO charge of retaliation,  
24 a man came and met with me several times. He took me  
up 25 to McDonald's and said, "We are going to charge them

1 with retaliation."

2 I said, "Just so you straighten them out."

3 Well, we didn't charge them with retaliation.

4 I was later told by the personnel director down at  
5 Goodyear, "We took tons of information down to  
6 Cincinnati about you."

7 I said, "What the hell are you talking about,  
8 tons of information? What did I do except tell you what  
9 was?"

10 They denied the claim. All I wanted them to  
do  
11 was, you know, when they demoted me they usually took a  
12 supervisor, which I was at the time, and give them an  
13 equivalent rank someplace else. They always done it  
for 14 everybody else, not for me.

15 I'm not complaining about that. You have  
16 serious problems here today. I had the same surgeon,  
17 this one, Dr. Ponce de Leon. Thank God they had the  
18 Cuba revolution. That's there Dr. Leon came from.  
He's 19 the man that operated on me.

20 But as far as I know today I don't have any  
21 problems other than I do have a serious problem with  
22 pernicious anemia, which I got at this plant. I do get  
23 a vitamin B-12 injection once a month, and thank  
24 goodness there's a hospital that found that in time.

My 25 red blood count was going down like this.

1           The medical plant kept telling me "no problem,  
2 no problem." I said, "Give me my records." So I took  
3 them to a gentleman at Riverside, and we ran some tests  
4 up there, and he found it the next day. Red blood count  
5 was on the skid. He said, "Another year, you would have  
6 been dead." That's what he told me. Now, if he's just  
7 bugging me, I don't know, but for the last ten years I  
8 have been going for a B-12 injection, same doctor, same  
9 doctor.

10           DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much. We are  
11 past our closing time. We have gotten through about  
40 12 of the 50 requests to speak. I'd like to ask the  
rest 13 of you to contact us, either by 800 number or if  
you

14 decide you prefer to wait, our team will be here in  
late 15 November and much more in January, and you can  
spend a 16 great deal of time with them.

17           I would like to take the opportunity to thank  
18 Congressman Strickland and Senator DeWine for taking  
the 19 time in coming.

20           CONGRESSMAN STRICKLAND: I want to thank you  
21 for being here. I want to express a couple of personal  
22 feelings that I have.

23           Number one is I am more than willing to state  
24 publicly and strongly that I have absolute confidence

in 25 Dr. Michaels. I also want to say publicly that I

1 believe Secretary Richardson wants to do the right  
2 thing.

3 I also want to say publicly in the presence of  
4 my good friend the Senator here that I believe there  
are 5 individuals within the administration who do not  
share

6 our concerns, Senator, and I think we ought to make damn  
7 sure that Dr. Michaels has the kind of financial  
8 resources that he needs to make sure that the medical  
9 monitoring that's essential is fully carried out.

10 I was told yesterday by someone in the  
presence

11 of our director of OMB that there was not a need for  
12 additional money for this purpose. And so I hope when  
13 we go back to Washington, we can confront that  
14 individual and make sure that every dollar that's  
needed 15 to carry out this medical monitoring is there.

16 Senator, I want to thank you for being here.  
I

17 know that I represent a district that is a smaller  
18 area. This Senator represents an entire state, and  
he's 19 got large responsibilities, but I thank you for  
being

20 here with us. I look forward to working with you

and 21 Senator Voinovich and Dr. Michaels to make sure  
these 22 folks get justice.

23               SENATOR DEWINE: Thank you. Thank you very  
24 much. I want to personally thank all of you for  
coming, 25 and I know some of the witnesses were very  
difficult for

1 you to testify. And I know how hard it must have been  
2 to come in here, tell what you have to tell, but it's  
3 been very helpful. It's been important, quite frankly,  
4 for me as a Senator to hear it directly. I'm sure Ted  
5 feels the same way. The Department of Energy could hear  
6 it directly as well. I know Dr. Michaels appreciates it  
7 very much.

8 Ted and I and George Voinovich will continue  
to

9 work together. This is something on a bipartisan  
basis, 10 we will work very closely together. We are all  
very,

11 very much committed to doing what we can.

12 This has been a sobering day for me, and it  
was

13 shocking to hear this. I have read about it and talked  
14 to some of you before. But to hear it collectively,  
15 one person after another coming up, telling the story,  
16 and I get the feeling that many of you could have told  
17 many more stories as well if we had the time to do  
that. 18

And

so getting it all today in one fell swoop I

19 think was to me very shocking, but also very helpful,  
20 and sort of steels our resolve to do what we know we

21 need to do, and this is a responsibility of the  
federal 22 government.

23           The federal government created the problem.  
24 The federal government did it. The federal government  
25 withheld information, allowed contractors many times

129 1 under their supervision to withhold  
information, and so 2 now what we have to do is to try  
as much as humanly  
3 possible to deal with this.

4 What Ted said as far as making sure the money  
5 is there as far as the medical monitoring I think is  
6 absolutely a key responsibility. The other key  
7 responsibility is what Dr. Michaels said at the  
8 beginning, is to make sure that the protocols are being  
9 followed. That way we can assure everybody that things  
10 are going the way they're supposed to be going.

11 And, Doctor, you are going to do that  
beginning

12 next month, I guess. So that's very significant. I  
was 13 frankly disturbed to find some of your stories  
carrying 14 up to 1993, 1994, 1995. That's very scary.

15 As far as the specific records, the USEC  
16 records, Dr. Michaels informs me he can't get those  
17 records, but he thinks we may be able to. We will try  
18 to get those records. I commit that, as far as Ted as  
19 well, to get the records.

20 We appreciate all of you coming in, and we  
will

21 continue to work. Thank you.

22

- - -

23

(The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

24

on Saturday, October 30, 1999.)

25

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130 1

CERTIFICATE

2               I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a  
3 true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by  
4 me in this matter on October 30, 1999, and carefully  
5 compared with my original stenographic notes.

6

7

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Rosemary F. Anderson

9

Registered Professional Reporter.

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